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QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS

San Diego Floral Association
INCORPORATED MARCH 1910

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California GARDEN

THE MAGAZINE FOR HANDS-ON GARDENERS AND FLORAL DESIGNERS

September/October 2008, Volume 99, Number 5

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President's Letter

A large part of my interest in the San Diego Floral Association comes from knowing some of its history.

We belong to an organization that has been in existence for more than 100 years and has published a practical and useful magazine for 99 years. We celebrated the organization's 100th birthday and will soon be celebrating an important landmark for *California Garden* magazine, which published its first issue in 1909.

Few organizations can claim such a distinction of age and service. The San Diego Floral Association is unique and it is special. But how has this happened? How was this organization started and why has it survived for more than a century? The answer is found in our membership—in decade after decade people have joined the San Diego Floral Association and have served on its committees and in various other volunteer capacities. As members, you are among those who are launching this Association into its next century!

Your time, your ideas and your active participation are needed. Without your involvement, the destiny and mission of this organization cannot be fulfilled and San Diego Floral Association will not remain vital and useful as a civic organization.

It is humbling to be stepping into the same office that Alfred Robinson filled 100 hundred years ago and that Kay Harry has recently vacated. I will do my best to serve our organization, but I need your guidance and your help. I look forward to getting to know many more of you and to working with you in the year ahead.

Nancy Carol Carter
President, 2008-09

In This Issue

This issue is full of wonderful, knowledgeable articles by local writers to feed our senses and our bodies.

Two themes which come to the fore are succulent plants and edible plants. Right now the country and region are facing shortages and price spikes for gasoline and water, as well as tainted supplies of fresh produce.

By considering and planting drought tolerant plants such as succulents, gardeners can save money on water as well as create beautiful and interesting landscapes. The range and variety of these water-thrifty plants is amazing.

Home fruit trees and vegetable gardens provide safe, delicious fare for families. Whether it is one tomato plant or a full on garden and orchard, you know exactly how the food was grown. Production can be shared or traded with friends and neighbors. And, nothing can reduce the pride and joy of picking crops you have grown yourself.

Happy gardening!

PHOTO: DEBRA LEE BALDWIN

See page 10 for *Agaves for Your Garden*

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Teacher: Kathy Page

❑ **OCT. 2, 2008** **Pine Needle Necklace**
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Cost: $30 for members, $35 for non-members; price includes $5 material fee
Teacher: Kathy Page

❑ **OCTOBER 9, 2008** **Christmas Ornaments**
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Teacher: Kathy Walsh

❑ **OCTOBER 23, 2008** **Floral Arranging 101**
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Cost: $30 for members, $35 for non-members; price includes materials for an arrangement
Teacher: Linda Lindgrin

❑ **OCTOBER 30, 2008** **Floral Arranging 102**
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Teacher: Linda Lindgrin

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Oh, Sweet Pea!

Growing them for winter bloom

White, lavender, coral, fuchsia, maroon, royal purple, wispy pink—who can resist the delicate soft beauty, the enchanting tints and intoxicating scent of sweet peas? Can we grow them in San Diego? By all means, but with some seasonal adaptations.

Many of us associate sweet peas, or *Laythrus odorata*, with early- to mid-summer blooms. The National Sweet Pea Society of Great Britain (*www.sweetpeas.org.uk)* has two major competitive shows, one for early blossoms in June and another for later blooming cultivars in July, and local shows extend through August. In our region, although sweet peas are easy to grow, even the most highly developed heat tolerant cultivars would scorch!

For growing advice, this same organization offers the following: "You can simply plant them in the soil where you intend them to grow in March or April in the U.K.... and leave them to it. By July you should have flowers. However, to get the best from your seeds you should consider planting them in autumn (late September to early November) or winter (January to February). This will enable you to have stronger and earlier flowering plants."

So, how would we achieve the same delightful production in San Diego? Forget planting sweet pea seeds in March or April. That's far too late, for the heat would burn these delicate plants before they had the opportunity to bloom. February should be the latest planting time here, but even better is the advice to plant seeds in autumn and winter.

Sweet peas like rich soil, so be sure to incorporate plenty of compost. Remember to provide good upright support. Sweet peas are climbing vines and need to hang on as they reach for the sun. Soak the seeds overnight before planting to hasten germination, being sure to plant them the next day. And, never let the soil dry out completely, which is a little easier in our rainy season. Picking them frequently will help to extend the blooming period.

For a little attention and special care, we are given a fantastic opportunity with this delightful flower. Planting "early flowering" varieties in September will give you blooms for the holidays! No, not Easter or even Valentine's Day, we're talking about Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Variety is all-important for "winter flowering" sweet peas, which will bloom with fewer hours of daylight. You must find seed packets that specify "early flowering" as most other sweet peas are "summer flowering" and must have at least twelve hours of daylight before they will bloom.

Many of the major seed companies offer sweet pea seeds. Graham Rice, noted horticulturist and author of *The Sweet Pea Book* (Timber Press), recommends several sources which offer a wide selection. Most readily available are Renee's Gardens seeds (*www.reneesgarden.com*) but you also might try Fragrant Garden Nursery in Brookings, OR, (*www.fragrantgarden.com*) which offers 10 different color selections in a series called 'Winter Elegance' which will bloom in winter when we have at least 10 hours of sunlight. Other choices may include the word "early" before the name, such as 'Early Spencer' or 'Early Multiflora.'

If you want to extend your growing season, you can plant the normal blooming varieties, in fall or winter for spring bloom.

Creating new colors, heat resistance and winter bloomers are fairly recent developments in expanding the characteristics of this amenable and highly popular garden flower. Sweet peas have fairly simple genetics and were one of the earlier plants to be hybridized.

The history of man's interaction with the sweet pea is intriguing. The first printed reference to the sweet pea plant was in 1695 when Francisco Cupani recorded seeing it in Sicily. Botanists are still unclear on its nativity and speculate widely from Sicily to China. As early as 1793 seed was being packaged and five varieties were in packets.

About 1840 began a marked an explosion of development for the flower including the first striped (flaked) variety and varieties that came true to color from seed. In the next fifty years, a somewhat modest but fragrant wildflower became a fashion queen for the summer garden. Hybridizers worked on and expanded characteristics such as size of bloom, color, height of plant, bloom time and more, creating thousands of variations and marketing hundreds. Some have ruffles, some especially long stems, some are dwarf size plants appropriate for pots and some have unusual color patterns.

The National Sweet Pea Society of Great Britain was formed and registered as a national charity in 1900. It sponsored competitions, which continue today. Field trials for new varieties are conducted annually.

America also got caught up in the craze and many of the early seed companies included sweet peas in their mail order lists, including familiar names such as Burpee (*www.burpee.com*), Ferry and Morse (later to merge as Ferry-Morse) (*www.ferry-morse.com*). Most major seed catalogs include one or more varieties or mixtures of sweet pea seeds.

Don't wait, order your seeds and get planting. You, too, can boast arrangements of fragrant sweet peas for the holidays, with plenty to share!

One word of caution, please don't eat the sweet peas.

– Lucy Warren

Succulent Flower Arrangements Suck

And that is just what we want them to do

Some of the 'hippest,' 'coolest' and most 'Avante Garde' floral designs are created using succulents. Not only are succulents ever so 'haute,' they also last for a very long time if properly cared for. Succulent designs may even take root and grow. Succulents are available in a myriad of colors, shapes, sizes and textures and are very easy to grow in Southern California gardens. They can be grown in the ground or in pots. Using succulents in floral designs—either alone or mixed with other flowers and foliage—makes for spectacular eye-popping designs. When you grow tired of the design you can stick the succulents back in the dirt and they will take root and grow. Think of the succulent design as a container garden in floral foam rather than soil.

For this design you'll need one low, fairly flat container (rectangle, round, oblong or square) and a selection of various shapes, sizes, colors and textures of succulents. You'll need one bunch of rose buds and large leaf foliage such as Bird of Paradise or New Zealand Flax. You'll need foral foam and green reindeer moss. (Floral foam and moss are available at large craft stores or floral supplies; these are not to be confused with Styrofoam, which is used in silk flower arrangements). Clippers or a knife round out the supply list.

Start by filling the container with well-soaked floral foam. Fill to about one inch below lip of container. Select three succulent florets, fairly large, depending on the size of the container. Place the largest and tallest succulent floret near the back left side of the container in the floral foam. Place the next smaller and shorter succulent floret near the right side of the container close to the rim. Place the smallest and shortest succulent floret near the middle front of the container. You should have a triangle of succulent florets ranging from tallest and largest to smallest and shortest going clockwise from the back left corner. Next you will re-cut the rose stems underwater and take off most of the leaves.

Cut the largest rose bud about 12 inches long. Place it in the center of the floral foam; do not push it clear to the bottom of container, as it will not be able to draw water into its stem. Cut two more roses just a bit shorter than the focal point rose. Place them just below the tallest one. Keep cutting shorter and shorter and placing them so they create a pyramid shape as they get closer to the container edge. The rose pyramid should fill about one-third of the center of the container.

Next step will be to select the largest leaf or flax and fold it over then staple. Make three of these, each one a little shorter than the first one. Place these leaves in the back right hand side of the container. Repeat with three even smaller leaves of flaxes and place in the front left side of the container.

Fill in the empty spots with various low and differing textures and shapes of succulents. Cover any remaining floral foam that shows with the reindeer moss. Keep the design well soaked with water and it will last quite some time and continue to change each day as the rose buds open to full size. The succulents and leaves will last even longer and you can just change the roses when they fade. Now you have an 'au current' succulent design and the only thing that should suck about it is the plant material drinking up the water from the floral foam. *–Kathy Taylor de Murrillo*

Feel free to use succulents from the garden for this design.

PHOTO: AMY K. WOOD

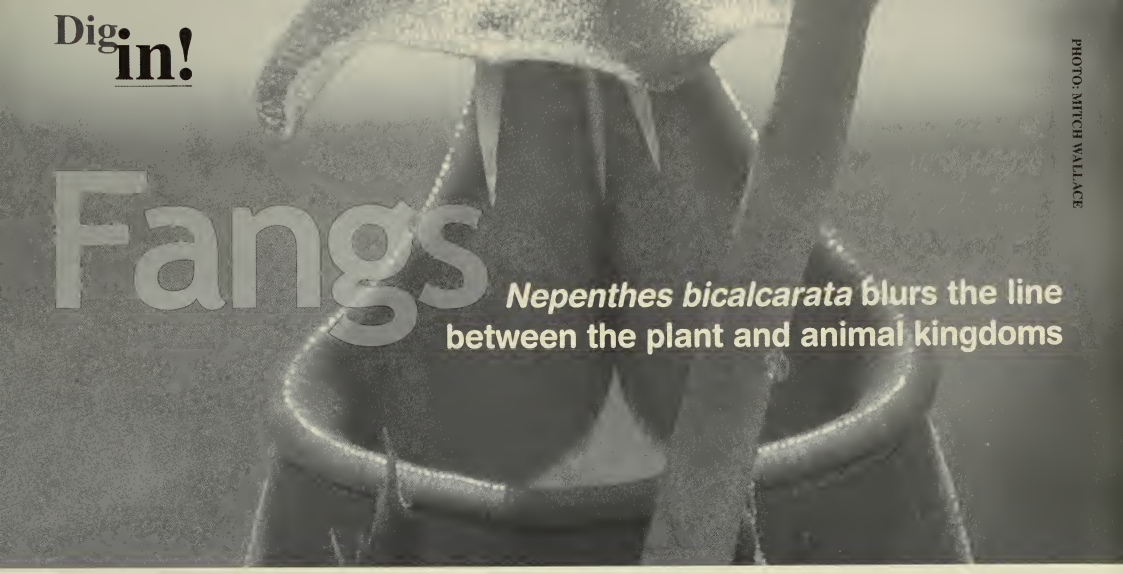

PHOTO: MITCH WALLACE

Fangs

Nepenthes bicalcarata blurs the line between the plant and animal kingdoms

What do tarantulas, rattlesnakes and *Nepenthes bicalcarata* all have in common? If you answered that they evoke a primitive fear in a good portion of the human population, you might be correct. If you answered that they all are voracious predators, you would also be on the right track. But the most obvious of their shared attributes comes in the disturbing form of two ominous appendages commonly known as fangs. While it is a bit hard to believe, *Nepenthes bicalcarata,* or the Fanged Pitcher Plant, boasts a shocking pair of chompers that easily rivals anything the animal kingdom has to offer.

Nepenthes bicalcarata is a member of the tropical pitcher plant family. Most of these plants are endemic to islands in Southeast Asia, like Sulawesi and Sumatra. The Fanged Pitcher Plant hails from the island of Borneo, where it shares its home with over 30 different species of *Nepenthes*. It is a swamp dweller and tends to grow in shaded, waterlogged areas. This is quite atypical for a tropical pitcher plant, as most species thrive as epiphytes in well-drained media and with a good deal of sun exposure. The Fanged Pitcher Plant is also one of the largest species of *Nepenthes*. It can grow to positively monstrous proportions in very little time, especially when grown in ideal conditions.

As it is a lowlander, *Nepenthes bicalcarata* craves high temperatures and saturating humidity. When it is young, like the plant pictured in the photographs (approximately 10 inches across), *Nepenthes bicalcarata* is best grown in a warm terrarium, which is where I grow my young specimen. This will only be suitable for its first few years of life. Let's just say that if one manages to grow a *Nepenthes bicalcarata* to maturity (approximately six feet across), then anything less than a greenhouse would prove to be grossly inadequate! It is for this reason that *Nepenthes bicalcarata* is best reserved for the advanced grower. Growers new to *Nepenthes* should start with a good beginner plant, like *Nepenthes sanguinea* or *Nepenthes x ventrata*. Luckily, San Diego is the perfect climate for these plants and I grow a great number of highland species outside year round. Some good examples of highland *Nepenthes* can be found in the Balboa Botanical Building, and care information, as well as purchasable *Nepenthes*, can be found at *www.cobraplant.com*.

Nepenthes bicalcarata's claim to fame, two dagger-like teeth that protrude out towards the pitcher mouth from underneath the lid, are actually an extension of the pitcher peristome, or lip. The fangs are entirely immobile, as is the pitcher lid, since all tropical pitcher plants utilize what are called passive pitfall traps. They lure their prey with nectar, which contains a weak narcotic that confuses and disorients. The prey helplessly slides down the smooth sides of the interior wall of the pitcher and lands in a pool of digestive juices. The victim drowns and is slowly digested and absorbed by the plant.

So if the fangs aren't used to skewer prey, then what are they for? Several different theories have been proposed. One is that insects are attracted to the dripping nectar on the fangs, which hang precariously over the digestive pool. This would obviously increase prey intake. Another theory is that the fangs discourage animals, particularly small mammals like insect-eating lemurs, from looting the pitchers and robbing the plant of its hard earned provisions.

Regardless of specific purpose, the fangs that adorn the lids of each of *Nepenthes bicalcarata*'s pitchers make the plant a sight to behold. It is almost as if somewhere within the chaotic and unpredictable hallways of evolution that a carnivorous animal somehow bred with an innocuous piece of greenery, producing a natural oddity that sports the unmistakable characteristics of both worlds. And this is just one representative of the varied and eclectic *Nepenthes* family. Just wait until you see *Nepenthes hamata*…

–Mitch Wallace

The Bold and the Beautiful: Succulents

SDFA October General Meeting guest speaker Patrick Anderson discusses creating gardens with succulents

PHOTO: LUCY WARREN

Large or small, dramatic or subtle, succulents fit into our San Diego gardens "naturally." They are easy to grow, come with a variety of forms, hues and textures and they can add a dramatic effect to container gardens, small outdoor spaces, even hillsides. October's general meeting celebrates succulents by featuring guest speaker Patrick Anderson, who will present a lecture and slide presentation showing how to use these drought-tolerant plants in inspiring ways.

Anderson is an experienced lecturer and horticulturist, and is well known for his knowledge of succulents and cacti. He has developed his design sense by visiting gardens around the world. Inspired by the Tuscan Hills, he bulldozed a citrus orchard to create a spectacular succulent garden on a Fallbrook hillside.

This gem of a garden developed organically. No design was put to paper and there are no formally planted areas. "The plants told me where they wanted to be," says Patrick. This garden depends on structure and form rather than flowers to be visually exciting. Art and succulents compliment each other throughout the garden. At the top of the hillside sits an elegant pavilion, the perfect spot for relaxing and enjoying the view.

Anderson has served on the board of the Huntington Botanical Garden in Pasadena. He is also a founding board member of the San Diego Horticultural Society. His succulent garden has been profiled in *Horticulture, Traditional Homes, Sunset* and *San Diego Home & Garden* magazines.

Please join us October 21, 2008 at 7 p.m. in Room 101, Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego CA for this eye-opening presentation. For more information, call 619-232-5762. Prior to the meeting an optional catered dinner is available at a cost of $12 for members and $15 for non-members by paid reservations prior to Monday, October 20, 2008 at 6:00 pm. – *Connie Brown*

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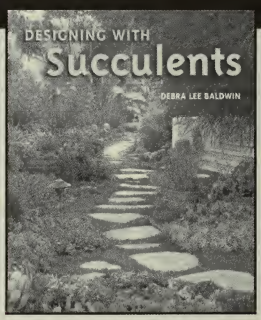
Designing with Succulents



is available at Barnes & Noble and other booksellers, as well as through Amazon.com.

For the author's award-winning Plant Palette CD (230 labeled photos of the best succulents for residential landscapes), visit her website, **www.debraleebaldwin.com.**

Autumn Herbal Gardening

Get the most out of fall by planting perennial herbs now

Walking through a nursery, public garden or even a friend's house, we often are seduced by herbs—for their flavors, for their scents, and interestingly, for their reputations. Some of them are old friends, long cultivated for both their culinary and medicinal values. We take care of them, and they take care of us; a very powerful relationship.

In Southern California, now is an ideal time to plan and plant your herb garden. The stress of our dry warm summer is over. Soon the storm clouds will roll back into town with drops of precious rain. The cool mornings and evenings invite us to dig in the garden.

Along the coast, there isn't really a classic winter season; it is more like a prolonged beautiful springtime. This is an ideal time for planting most of the perennial herbs and some of the annuals.

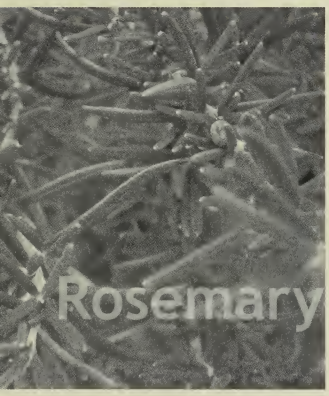


PHOTO: AMY R. WOOD

PHOTO: RACHEL COBB

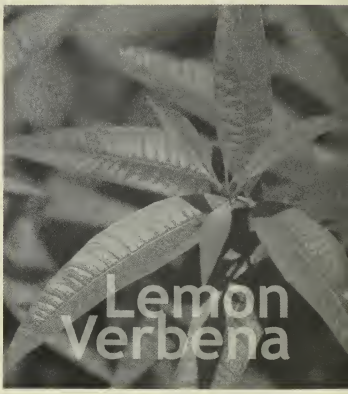


PHOTO: RACHEL COBB

The perennial herbs—plants that live year after year—include lavenders, mints, sages, thymes, comfrey, roman chamomile, coneflower, rosemary, yerba santa, yerba mansa and hundreds more. When we plant these in the fall, they have an easy time to get established. The shorter and cooler days allow the herbs to get rooted. Sometimes the plants seem to almost hibernate, staying the same size for a month or so as they grow beneath the surface. (Note: There are a few perennial herbs that will do better if planted in the springtime. These are the winter dormant herbs. The sensitive French tarragon will die down to the ground in the autumn, and then sprout up from the roots in the spring. Lemon verbena and gingko lose all their leaves in the autumn.)

The winter rains naturally cheer the young leaves to dance. By the time calendar springtime arrives, our young babies will be well established and will rapidly mature and burst forth in abundant flower during the spring and summer.

Annual herbs are the plants that live for one growing season to reproduce seed and then die. There are cool season and warm season annuals. The cool season annual herbs should be planted in the fall or early winter. These include borage, calendula, chickweed and nasturtium. They all grow easily from seed.

The warm season annual herbs, such as basil, German chamomile and dill, will grow better if they are planted in March or April, as they are sensitive to frost. Indeed, basil is a great indicator plant of winter's arrival. One day usually in late November or early December, after a crispy cold night, you can watch your vibrantly green lush basil plant quickly turn brown and wilted. If you plant warm season annuals now, their lifespan will be very short.

Getting new herbs for your garden is fun and easy. Many of them are easy to propagate from cuttings, root divisions or collected seed. This is a fun and neighborly way of sharing. Try the mints, which are easily started from cuttings or root division.

It is also fun to explore the local nurseries; some have a great selection of potted herbs both common and exotic. Many of the starts are coming from Pearson's Garden and Herb Farm *(www.pearsonsgardens.com)* in Vista. They grow a great selection of herbs.

If you want to learn about the world of herbs, attend one of the San Diego Herb Club *(www.thesandiegoherbclub.com)* meetings in Balboa Park. The group is also celebrating National Herb Day on October 11 at the Trees for Health Garden in Balboa Park.

Some people focus on culinary herbs, others are more interested in the medicinal herbs, and some people want herbs just for the birds, butterflies and bees. So step outside now and plan your garden. Make a list of herbs that you want to add, and then enjoy the results. *–John Noble*

Cool Cucumbers

Grow your own for use in two tasty recipes

Late summer and early autumn may not be too late to sow cucumber seeds. As long as the day temperature doesn't average less than 65 to 70 degrees Fahrenheit, the seeds will germinate rapidly when planted in fertile hillocks. An ideal hillock would be composed of mellowed compost about three feet in diameter. Make the top smooth. Plant seeds around the periphery using about fifteen seeds per hillock. After the plants germinate and start to grow, thin to five or six of the hardiest plants.

The hillocks should be located adjacent to a fence or trellis to provide a support for the cucumber vine to grow on. Or, you can let the vines grow along the ground but only if you keep them free of snails, slugs and mildew. After the plants start growing, keep the hillocks moist, but not soaked. When blossoms start to mature and the small fruits appear, fertilize with a balanced fertilizer once or twice, lightly. Harvest when the fruit is six inches or longer. If you let them get too big, they become very seedy inside and the rind can become tough and bitter. – *Bob Horwitz*

Hungarian Cukes

- 2 cucumbers, peeled and sliced
- 2 tablespoons salt
- 1 teaspoon dried dill
- ½ cup light sour cream
- ¼ teaspoon ground pepper
- ½ teaspoon ground paprika
- 4 lettuce leaves

Place the sliced cucumbers in a colander. Sprinkle with half the salt. Let stand for about an hour, shake to remove excess moisture. Put the cukes into a mixing bowl, add dill and sour cream. Mix together. Let chill for an hour. Serve on lettuce leaves garnished with the pepper, paprika, and if you like it, some of the remaining salt.

Stuffed Cucumbers

- 4 small cucumbers
- 2 cups cooked rice
- 1 cup cooked crabmeat or imitation crab
- 1 cup julienned red sweet pepper
- 1 tablespoon soy sauce
- Salt

Cut off ends of the cucumbers. Hollow out the center, removing most of the seeds. Salt the insides and let stand for an hour. Shake out excess moisture, mix the crabmeat, rice, red pepper and soy together. Stuff the cucumbers and cut crosswise into one-inch slices.

PHOTO: RACHEL COBB

PHOTO: DEBRA LEE BALDWIN

Tuxedo agave

Agaves for Your Garden

Use these sculptural succulents as focal points and in containers

By Debra Lee Baldwin

For 15 years I cultivated my half-acre garden in north Escondido without agaves. I was into roses and fluffy perennials and, more recently, succulents that are daisy-shaped or have leaves like ruffled petticoats. Agaves—which resemble artichokes, pincushions or fountains—are the antithesis of such rounded, soft-textured plants. Native to drought-prone regions of the Southwest, Mexico and Central America, agaves tend to be macho and intimidating, with barbed leaf edges and sharp terminal spines.

But because I visit gardens by top designers (as part of my work as a garden photojournalist), I came to realize my own garden was a soft mass, like a photo out of focus. So, several years ago, when a neighbor gave me offsets from his immense yellow-and-green-striped *Agave americana* 'Marginata', I positioned them throughout the garden. It is one of the largest succulents, and when mature, its long, tapered leaves are as wide and long as two-by-fours. These undulate, suggesting motion—a subliminal impact that lends edgy appeal. Having such man-eaters in the garden reminds me of science-fiction thrillers that both delighted and terrified me as a child.

Now when I look down into my garden—which is on a slope, with terraced areas—I view half a dozen Volkswagen-sized plants that resemble, depending on my fancy, immense octopi or lavish striped ribbons. From a design standpoint, these variegated agaves create pleasing repetitions, and serve as focal points for mixed plantings of smaller succulents and fine-textured perennials. At last my garden's masculine and feminine elements are in balance, and the result pleases my eye and the camera's.

Agaves reproduce both by plantlets that form along the bloom stalk, and via pups that pop up from lateral roots. Before you know it, the mother plant is surrounded by smaller versions of itself. Each of these may pup, as well. I've seen *Agave americana* grow so thickly, its owner gave up trying to reclaim the land beneath it. But it was partly his fault; he had been too kind. You don't want to give *Agave americana* regular water, fertilizer and rich soil. The less TLC the better to keep it in check.

Agave americana 'Mediopicta Alba', which is gray-and-cream striped, and grows to about half the size of the others (to four or five feet tall and as wide), is hardy to 15 degrees Fahrenheit. This elegant, midsized agave is perfect for smaller gardens and also does well in pots. Because of its formal silhouette and coloration—and since its botanical name is unwieldy—I have given it the common name "tuxedo agave." I combine my americanas with the blue succulent groundcover, *Senecio mandraliscae*; with annual wildflowers, such as bright orange California poppies; with dainty, butterfly-like gaura; and with gray, feathery-leaved *Artemisia* 'Powis Castle'. I also skirt them with lush green aeoniums, and allow bougainvillea and ivy geraniums to caress them with color.

While on tour after my book, *Designing with Succulents,* came out, I met people beyond our region who have agave envy. I told them there is an agave for every garden, including those in cold climates. And even in the Southwest, gardeners are unaware of how many gorgeous varieties of *Agave* are available. The genus is remarkably diverse, with species found in habitat from sea level to 9,000 feet. A fairly common agave that, depending on the subspecies, tolerates temperatures to -20 degrees is *Agave parryi* (three feet tall and four feet wide, over time). It is a large gray artichoke with minimally toothed leaves beautifully tipped in black. I saw it thriving in the Denver Botanic Garden in January, surrounded by snow and shrubs that were dormant sticks. Other agaves that go below zero include *Agave havardiana*, *A. montana* and *A. utahensis* (to -10 degrees), and *Agave neomexicana* (to -20).

Most agaves tolerate temperatures below freezing for brief periods, but one that is notoriously frost tender—and also very common in San Diego—is soft-leaved *Agave attenuata.* It resembles a large (to four feet in diameter and as wide) green rose with pointed petals. In my garden, during a midwinter cold snap, it collapsed like wet Kleenex. I trimmed the damaged leaves back, and new growth from the centers of the rosettes also has restored the plants' beauty. Incidentally, a variegated (yellow-striped) cultivar of *Agave attenuata* is highly sought-after; even small pups can command hundreds of dollars.

Agaves are famous for being the plant from which tequila is made. *Agave tequilana* (to eight feet tall and as wide, hardy to 25 degrees) has blue-gray, bayonet-shaped leaves. In Mexico, where it is cultivated commercially, workers whack mature plants back to a pineapple-like core. This is then harvested and cooked, and the juice distilled.

Because agaves are slow-growing when their roots are confined, even potentially immense varieties do fine in pots, sometimes for years. When the soil is gone and the pot crammed with fleshy roots, the agave feeds off its own pantry of nutrients. Keep in mind though, that potentially large agaves may eventually crack and break pots made of low-fired clay.

In retail nurseries over the next few years, we can look forward to seeing beautiful agaves that are much smaller in size compared to immense *Agave americana.* Here in San Diego, Rancho Soledad Nursery's (*www.ranchosoledad.com*) tissue culture division, Rancho Tissue Technologies, has been cloning aesthetically desirable agaves. An example is *Agave* 'Blue Flame', a cross between *Agave attenuata* and *Agave shawii.* The hybrid resembles *Agave attenuata*, but handles much colder temperatures (down to 25 degrees in my garden). Its name comes from blue-green leaves that taper to a point, suggesting flames.

PHOTO: DEBRA LEE BALDWIN

San Diego County also is home to Euro-American Propagators *(www.euroamprop.com)*, a grower and wholesale supplier of ornamental plants under the Proven Winners label, and which has a new line of succulents that includes a half-dozen agaves. Among these is *Agave geminiflora*, which has dark green leaves margined in wispy white filaments. Near Santa Barbara is San Marcos Growers (*www.sanmarcosgrowers.com*) that offers, among many others, mid-sized Agave 'Cornelius', with wavy leaves boldly striped yellow-and-green. Such suppliers are making beautiful agaves available in an array of varieties, in quantity, throughout the Southwest and nationwide.

Ten agaves that do well in San Diego gardens

These stay manageably small (three to five feet in diameter and as tall):

- *Agave americana* 'Mediopicta Alba' (tuxedo agave): Has an upright, fountain-shaped silhouette and cream-striped, blue-gray leaves.
- *Agave angustifolia* 'Variegata': Knife-like leaves are striped cream and green.
- *Agave attenuata*: Resembles a large rose with tapered, soft green leaves. Frost tender.
- *Agave* 'Blue Glow': The color of the leaves—a blue-green faintly streaked with gray—suggests a watercolor painting. Thin red leaf margins glow beautifully when backlit.
- *Agave bovicornuta*: Green leaves are patterned with white scalloped indentations left by other leaves before they unfurled. Crimson teeth line leaf margins.
- *Agave bracteosa*: Slender, curling green leaves lack teeth or spines.
- *Agave geminiflora*: A pincushion agave that forms whorls of dense, compact rosettes.
- *Agave potatorum*: A blue-gray agave with orange prickles along the leaf edges and terminal spines that twist.
- *Agave* 'Sharkskin': Thick, gunmetal-gray and sandpaper-textured leaves give the plant sculptural appeal.
- *Agave victoria-reginae*: A cold-hardy (to 10 degrees) agave named after Queen Victoria. Has dark green, wedge-shaped leaves crisply outlined in white.

CARING FOR AGAVES

Agaves are tough, easy-care succulents that tolerate less than ideal conditions. To optimize the plants' health and vitality:

Let soil go dry between waterings. Typical of most succulents, agaves latch onto soil moisture, which they retain efficiently. But agaves don't know what to do with too much water, and after plumping up, may become sodden and rot.

Grow agaves atop mounds or on a slope, so water drains away from the roots.

Grow potted agaves in fast-draining "cactus mix" potting soil, or make your own by combining two parts regular potting soil with one part pumice or perlite.

Amend your garden soil with decomposed granite. Agaves will grow in pure decomposed granite, so you can't overdo it.

Give solid-colored agaves full sun, variegated varieties partial afternoon shade.

Know an agave's cold hardiness, and cover it with a bed sheet to protect it if temperatures will briefly drop below its tolerance.

Fertilize half strength in spring when the plants emerge from dormancy.

Don't let dirt or leaf debris, which trap moisture and invite insects, settle into an agave's leaf axils.

Know the size at maturity of any agave you plant. Some species become huge, and because of barbed tips, can be hazardous, especially alongside walkways.

If you must trim an overlarge agave, preserve its symmetry by cutting the leaves flush with the stem rather than truncating them half way.

Realize that agaves die after blooming, and plan accordingly; don't position one where it may be a challenge to remove. Most agaves take upwards of five years to bloom, and some, like "century plants" may take 15 years or more.

Watch for pups (offsets) and detach them if you don't want a colony.

Garden photojournalist Debra Lee Baldwin is the author of the bestseller, Designing with Succulents (Timber Press, 2007). Portions of this article originally appeared in Gardening How-To *magazine.*

Cover Photo: *Agave tequiliana*
Photo: Debra Lee Baldwin

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Reviews

All of the books reviewed in *California Garden* are part of the San Diego Floral Association Library collection (located in Room 105, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA). Come, browse—and if you're a SDFA member—check them out!

The Victory Garden Companion

Michael Weisham and Laurie Donnelly
Harper Collins
$30 (hardcover),
295 pages

With so many fabulous garden books already in print, the author of this one claims to have initially questioned the need for one more. But as the host of a long-running TV gardening show, Weisham soon recognized a need for in-depth discussions of how to decide what to do, as well as information on how to do it. Who hasn't pondered the questions of soil content or the effect of climate when planning a garden; just trying to decide the size of a new deck or patio can lead to a longing for expert advice.

Although his book is filled with truly gorgeous photos, the author cautions that such images are great for inspiration and ideas, but that real planning must begin with the reality of a garden's specific site. Topography and climate are two concerns, but equally important is a design that complements the house it surrounds. Weisham's professional reputation as a designer of traditional gardens is reflected in several pages describing gardens appropriate, by reason of culture or economics, to various types of historical architecture.

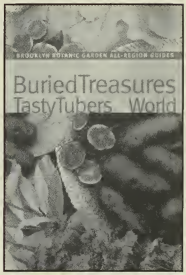
Chapters devoted to the ins and outs of these and many other decisions include many side boxes and sub-headings that cover home projects and extended information on a wide variety of topics. Problems with heritage vegetables, zone maps for heat and cold tolerance, before and after garden designs and good and bad landscape examples are offered not as afterthoughts but as questions that might arise in the reader's mind.

Each chapter ends with a photo tour of an "Inspired Garden," ranging from Thomas Jefferson's extensive vegetable garden at Monticello to Thomas Hobbs' colorful backyard in Vancouver.

Beginning gardeners would find this a fantastic resource for guidance and ideas, but even experienced gardeners will find nuggets of information, especially in explanations of how and why certain methods work best. The author is based in the land of four seasons, but his enthusiastic and informal approach to gardening is universal in content and attitude. *—Marge Howard-Jones*

Buried Treasures: Tasty Tubers of the World

Beth Hanson, Editor
Brookly Botanic Garden
All-Region Guides
$10 (paperback),
118 pages



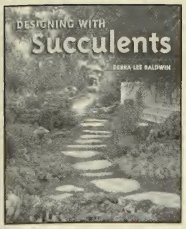
Plant passions can take many forms and one of mine is learning about interesting interfaces between people and plants, particularly edible plants. I don't actually have to grow them, or eat them either, but I love knowing about the potential.

Buried Treasures piqued my interest because it is an area, to my knowledge, which has seldom been compiled before. Many, if not most, of the tubers described can be grown in Southern California with our frost-free climate.

After a brief introduction which defines the various forms of tubers, we learn that root crops may have as old a tradition as a domesticated food source as grain, but have not been as thoroughly investigated because they are more perishable and originated in more tropical climates. Cultivated potatoes date back an estimated 10,000 years.

The chapter encompassing an Encyclopedia of Edible Tubers by Scott D. Appell introduces and describes over 30 culinary tubers from around the world. Each includes photos, a description, attributes, growing tips, propagation, hardiness, cultivars, cooking and eating and nutritional value. Some are familiar in our daily world, like potatoes, yams and water chestnuts; some are exotic, like Livingstone potato (*Plectranthus esculentus*) from Africa or Oca/New Zealand Yam (*Oxalis tuberose*) from the Andes; and, some are both familiar and surprising such as the edible canna (*Canna edulis*) and *Dahlia* hybrids.

Chapters by various authors on gathering wild roots (where allowed), propagating more tubers, recipes and more round out this interesting and informative guide. Take heart, if your yard has been invaded by nutsedge you can have the last revenge, dig it up and munch, boil or roast it with gusto. *–Lucy Warren*



Designing with Succulents

Debra Lee Baldwin
Timber Press
$30 (hardcover), 256 pages

If you are new to San Diego, then you might be one of the few who haven't heard about this book. Due to the author's extensive speaking tours and the timeliness of the subject matter, *Designing with Succulents* has been a bestseller since its publication last year, and for good reason.

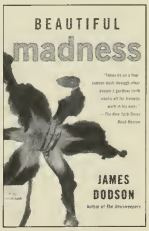
Baldwin is happy to tell us she is a designer, not a horticulturist. If you are expecting technical information on the care, propagation and raising of succulents, you won't find it in this book. However, for all but the most intensive hobbyist, this book will resonate with anyone who is interested in reducing water usage in our Southern California gardens while still maintaining a lush and lovely landscape.

Baldwin has struck a timely note as we all struggle to reduce water usage in our ever-increasing drought-parched landscape. Her abundant and well thought out color photographs give the reader ample examples of how succulents can be interspersed or replace the plants in and around our homes. As a bonus for San Diego readers, many of her photographic examples are from the area. Instead of using charts and diagrams of design principles, Ms. Baldwin illustrates good design examples with photographs and identifies the plants used. Much inspiration can be gained from just browsing through this book. She shows how these amazing plants can work in any landscape and enhance it—either by completely replacing or being co-mingled with existing plantings.

Designing with Succulents is well organized, starting with a chapter on designing your garden and moving on to plant selections, themes, a brief but thorough chapter on propagation, containers and topiaries and even a chapter on succulents in colder climates.

The information is suitable for everyone, including those who have only containers or indoors gardens. If you thought you didn't like succulents before, reading this book is guaranteed to change the way you think about them. As a succulent aficionado, I highly recommend *Designing with Succulents* as one of the key Southern California landscape books for any gardener's bookshelf! *–Laura Starr*

Beautiful Madness



James Dodson
Penguin Group
$15 (paperback), 304 pages

Beautiful Madness is a delightful romp through the world of those who are horticulturally-obsessed. By showcasing his own garden, as well as other gardens and garden shows around the world, Dodson takes the reader on a whirl-wind tour of the globe in this easy-to-read and inspiring biographical novel.

The author first takes us to the Philadelphia Flower Show, where magnificent floral exhibits are tended and manicured by zealous gardeners and flower lovers. Competition for prizes becomes fierce among the top names in gardening. Dodson then returns to his Maine home and garden, inspired by the show and bursting with plans for his own garden, only to find how destructive the brutal Maine winter had been. This is a feeling all San Diego gardeners can relate to as we occasionally attempt to grow plants not used to our unique climate.

Dodson sets out to resurrect his garden, seeking the help of plant experts and gardeners. He visits some gardens where he discovers many species for his home garden, and each new destination sparks an increased passion for planting. Thomas Jefferson's garden, Winterthur garden in New Jersey and White Flower Farm all provide a wealth of information, ideas and plants for Dodson's Maine garden. The culmination of garden visits is overseas, where Dodson visits some famous English gardens and the world-famous Chelsea Flower Show. A trip to South Africa to search for wildflowers tests Dodson's survival skills, and he returns to his Maine garden with a sense of peace and accomplishment, prepared to take on his own garden's unique challenges. It is a journey any dedicated gardener can relate to, and one which will no doubt inspire readers to search for inspiration for their own gardens. *–Victoria Phillips*

Hardy Succulents: Tough Plants for Every Climate

Gwen Moore Kelaidis
Storey Publishing
$20 (paperback), 160 pages

At last! An answer for your guests from out of town who visit from colder climes and fall in love with the succulents in your garden; instead of agreeing with them that their climate is too cold for them to enjoy these wonderful plants, just point them to Kelaidis' book, *Hardy Succulents*.

The book showcases the hardier side of succulents. Kelaidis presents a complete climate reference for all the plant zones in North America, and lists places where people can buy succulents in areas not known for having them. Special attention is given to the concept of the Green Roof, which is a planting of succulents on a building's roof that can help curb energy costs.

The author's suggestions on pairing perennials with succulents for color and variety is helpful and beautiful, and a featured photo of an agave with snow covered tips is unbelievable but delightful to see. The book contains many helpful tips to protect the plants from cold, and instructions on how to provide correct drainage to help secure success are appreciated. There is even a recipe and detailed directions on how to make a hypertufa pot to use as a planter with a more natural appearance.

In addition to outstanding information about the plants there is a superb color photo on every page to showcase the unique plants and enhance the planting concepts.

–Kay Harry

Plumeria: Tropical Star

Learn to grow exotic plumeria in Southern California's Mediterranean-climate

By Dorothy Carroll

In Hawaii, you are greeted with, "Aloha! Welcome," and presented with a traditional flower lei. Most often, it's made from the *Plumeria rubra* (or Frangipani) blossom, a fragrant, five-petal waxy, pinwheel-shaped flower of white, red, yellow, pink or multi-colored pastels. For this reason, we associate plumeria closely with Hawaii.

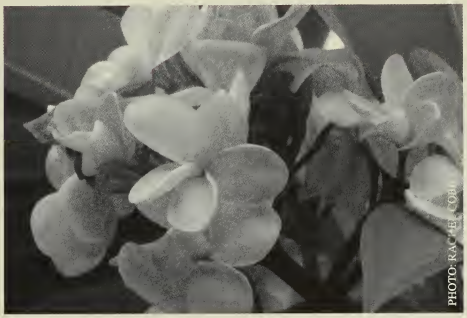


PHOTO: RACHEL CORBI

Interestingly, plumeria is not native to Hawaii and didn't arrive until 1860. Plumeria are native to tropical and subtropical Americas and their growth and popularity have now spread to all tropical areas of the world. The plant is named for French botanist Charles Plumier, who discovered it in the seventeenth century while he was in the Caribbean.

Around the World

Popular names for plants can vary widely. Many peoples have described plumeria in their own languages. Frangipani refers to an Italian noble family whose sixteenth-century marquess invented a plumeria-scented perfume. In Mexico, Aztecs called the plumeria *cacalloxuchitl*, meaning "crow flower" and used it for medicinal purposes such as for salves and ointments. Other tropical regions have a host of regional names for the flowering plant.

P. alba, the national flower of Nicaragua (called *sacuanjoche*) and of Laos (called *champa*) is a larger plant growing up to 40 feet, with beautiful white flowers with yellow centers.

In southern and southeastern Asia, local beliefs are that plumeria plants provide shelter to ghosts and demons, while in Malay folklore the scent of plumeria has been associated with vampires. Hindu and Buddhist cultures associate plumeria with temples, although the blossoms are not used in their temple offerings. In Eastern Africa, frangipani sometimes is referred to in Swahili love poems.

Growing in San Diego

There are about eight species of plumeria. *P. rubra,* the most popular of the species, grows as a small tree or shrub that can reach 20 to 30 feet tall with a broad, round-headed canopy of leaves and flowers. *P. obtuse*, Singapore plumeria (originally from Colombia in spite of its common name), is an evergreen which blooms throughout winter. *P.rubra*, temple tree, is deciduous with blooms coming in the spring, before the leaves emerge. It continues to flower for the next six months.

Plumeria flowers are waxy and highly fragrant. Blooms will last up to several days without wilting if kept moist, making them popular flowers for traditional leis.

Most of San Diego County's climate is ideal for growing plumeria. Be aware—two main things will kill plumeria; too much water and too cold weather. Plant plumeria in soil that drains well. In areas susceptible to frost, protect the plants with cover or bring them into a greenhouse, heated garage or shed during winter.

Plumeria need full sun, except in the hottest areas of San Diego where it's best planted so it receives light afternoon filtered shade.

Fertilize by spreading nutrients around the base of the plant and out about two feet beyond the spread of the overhead canopy. Fertilizer preference and time of application vary by grower. The easiest method is to feed your plumeria every three to four months with a 10-30-10 fertilizer. For best health and bloom, plan on using fertilizer on a regular basis during the growing season, spring through autumn.

Deep and infrequent watering is best for plumeria. Remember, over watering will cause root rot and kill the plant. In San Diego's winter months we have most of our scant rainfall so you probably won't have to water the plumeria at all. Again—it can't be said often enough—the soil must drain thoroughly!

Pests and Diseases

Prevention is number one in garden care. Keep the growing area clean and free of fallen leaves, debris and weeds. Allow for good air circulation and lots of sunshine. Carefully remove all infected leaves, blossoms and plant parts and place them in trash bags. Keep your hand tools clean and sanitary so you don't spread diseases and bugs from one plant to another.

Hose off bugs and keep the ground under each plant clean. To help prevent fungus growth, do not spray water on your plants in the cool hours of the evening.

Watch for snails and slugs especially during the cool, wet season. Do not use bait around plumeria. Instead, use slug traps, or hand pick and remove these night-feeding pests.

Rust fungus looks like yellow, orange or reddish-brown powdery pustules on leaves, stems or buds. Rust fungus won't kill established plumeria, but it can cause the plant to lose all its leaves. Use a fungicide at the first sign of outbreak. Check

with your local nursery for their suggestion on a specific product to use.

Mealybugs are scale insects living in white wooly masses on the leaves. Mealybugs suck the sap and nutrients from leaves leaving them warped and misshaped. They can eventually stunt plumeria growth, so use an insecticide dust for best control.

Black tip fungus occurs in the spring and late fall when the weather is cool and wet. Growth tips of plumeria turn black and die. Fortunately, if temperatures warm up, the black tip will fall off, the tips will callus and break off and the plumeria will actually start to branch out, as if it had been pruned. However, don't be complacent—if left uncontrolled, it could kill a small plumeria. Apply fungicide granules to the soil and spray fungicide on the infected areas.

Stem rot causes the stem to become soft and squishy as it erodes the inner layers of the plumeria stem. Causal agents are cool temperatures and wet soil. Always dust new cuttings with a rooting hormone that contains a fungicide. Occasionally mature plumeria will lose a branch or two from stem rot and freeze damage. If this happens, cut off all the affected areas and dispose of them in a trash bag. Mature plumeria will be okay and will again produce new branches and leaves.

Whiteflies are tiny white insects that fly around a plant when disturbed. They secrete sticky "honeydew" that hosts a black sooty mold that can easily spread. Ants "farm" whiteflies and carry them up into the trees. After cleaning up the growing area and removing the infected leaves, blast the leaves with a hose to knock down hard to reach insects. Place yellow sticky traps near plumeria plants to catch whiteflies and shake plants to force whiteflies to move and hopefully get stuck to the sticky traps.

Propagation

Share your plumeria with friends and neighbors by simply taking a one to two foot cutting of a leafless stem tip in spring. Set this cutting aside where the base of the cut can dry for at least two weeks before planting. This allows the cut to callus over and minimizes rotting before roots get established.

Plumeria cuttings can be planted in the garden or in a sterilized pot. For pots use sterilized soil, add perlite or similar fast-draining planting media, and dust the cutting with a rooting hormone that contains a fungicide. Do not use manure as a fertilizer for plumeria, as it can contain too many salts. Do not overwater.

Pruning

Plumeria is related to oleander and contains a poisonous, milky sap, similar to that of euphorbia. Use caution when pruning plumeria. Don't rub your eyes or get any sap on your fingers and in your mouth.

It's best to prune when the weather is warm. Prune for shape and convenience of reaching and smelling the flowers. Remember, you won't be able to pick and enjoy the flowers as easily from a 30 foot tree, so top it regularly to keep a more compact plant. Pruning in spring may result in the loss of spring flowers.

Always remove dead or diseased limbs and dispose of them in trash bags so not to spread any diseases. Save any good cuttings from pruning and plant them to surprise your friends and neighbors with a newly potted plumeria gift.

More Information

The Southern California Plumeria Society is hosting a show and sale on September 6-7 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Room 101 Casa del Prado in Balboa Park. Come see the incredible colors and variations in the flowers of this wonderful plant.

To learn more about growing plumeria, contact the local Southern California Plumeria Society. They meet on the fourth Sunday of each month, February through October, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Room 102, Casa del Prado in Balboa Park, San Diego. You can also write to the President, Joy Herzog at PO Box 20553, El Cajon, CA 92021-0940.

Fashion A Plumeria Lei

Supplies Needed:

- 50 to 60 plumeria flowers for a 40" lei
- 6" or 12" Lei needle, or a 3" or 4" upholstery needle with the smallest diameter.
- Four to eight pound fishing line, strong thread or waxed dental floss
- Jar of petroleum jelly

Gathering the Flowers

Plumeria have a milky sap in the bottom of the stems that is poisonous. Always pick flowers away from your face so the milky sap doesn't spray on you and wash your hands before moving on to other tasks. Allow the milky sap to dry before you begin stringing the lei.

Gather your blossoms early in the morning, picking flowers that have just opened. These will have vibrant colors and slightly curled back petals. Avoid blossoms that are wilted bruised or have dropped to the ground.

Sort blossoms according to size and color. If you gather different color flowers, decide on a pattern for stringing. For instance: six yellow, three white, two red, then repeat the pattern. It's your choice, so be creative.

Creating Your Lei

Plan your design with the largest flowers in the middle of the lei, working down to the smallest flowers so the lei will look balanced. Make a quick sketch on paper to get a visual of the finished lei, then place your flowers in the pattern in which you plan to use them.

You're working with flowers, so don't handle them too often or they'll bruise.

Measure and cut a 46" piece of fishing line, thread or waxed dental floss. Thread your needle and tie something temporarily to the other end to keep your flowers from sliding off.

Dip your needle in the petroleum jelly to lightly 'grease' it to help thread the flowers. Repeat this as needed. Plumeria blossoms have holes through their center, so it's easy to string them. Have the flowers facing you and put the needle through the "eye" of the flower so it comes out the back. Gently slide the flower onto the string being careful not to tear your flowers.

Leave six inches at the end of your string to tie the ends together when you're finished. It will tie behind the wearer's neck so these should be your smallest blossoms working to the largest flowers in the middle of the string.

When finished, remove the needle from the string and tie the ends together in a double knot. Add a ribbon if you wish and cut off any excess string.

Lei Care

Mist a plumeria lei lightly with cool water, or place it on a cool, damp paper towel. Some people put the lei in a Ziplock-type bag in a refrigerator, others never do. The cooling and mist help the lei to last longer while hot, dry air reduces their lifespan.

Pruning techniques for tree health, pest control, fruit production and size control

By Tom Del Hotal

Citrus Pruning

As we approach autumn, the weather may still be hot, but it is time to prepare for fall projects. How long has it been since you last pruned your citrus trees? If you're like most of us, it's probably been too long, if at all. Citrus are so undemanding, it's easy to forget, but you'll benefit from healthier trees and optimal fruit production if you care for them properly.

Citrus trees generally need to be pruned every two to five years. Primary reasons for pruning citrus include:

- Removing dead wood
- Thinning crowded branches to improve light penetration and air circulation
- Developing structural strength and removing damaged or dysfunctional branches
- Maintaining tree shape
- Size control or pruning for specific landscape function

Citrus trees are generally pruned to a central leader or a modified central leader shape. A full canopy of leaves should be maintained in order to protect the bark of the trunk and scaffold branches from direct sun and potential sunburn. Pruning is best done in the early spring or in the early fall. Sufficient time should be given after pruning to allow new growth to develop before the occurrence of very hot or very cold weather that could result in injury to the tree.

Trees can have branches close to the ground (have a full skirt) or can have the lower branches pruned off to expose the trunk. When the lower branches have been removed, the tree is said to be skirted, or standardized. Citrus can also be pruned or shaped into hedges or espaliers. Multiple trees are sometimes planted together in one hole to produce what appears to be a single tree with multiple trunks.

Pruning can reduce the mature height and width of a citrus tree by an average of 15-40 percent. Pruning should be limited to the removal of no more than 15-20 percent of the foliage at any one time in order to reduce the effects of stress to the tree. If sufficient foliage is removed so that the bark of the tree is exposed to direct sunlight, the bark should be whitewashed in order to prevent sunscald or sunburn.

Understanding Citrus Growth

Citrus growth occurs in several flushes during each year, depending on climate. Two to four growth flushes each year are common. The first growth occurs as straight vertical shoots. No side branches occur on these shoots during this initial growth period. The growth will eventually stop and the tree will enter a resting period.

Side branching develops on these vertical shoots during the next growth flush. These side branches fill out to produce a rounded canopy.

During the next growth flush, vertical shoots are again produced which push through the preceding canopy to reach upward and outward. These shoots again eventually produce side branches to form a new canopy that is above and beyond the preceding canopy or layer. The result is the development of distinct layers or canopies on citrus trees that are important when pruning trees to control tree size.

Trees can be reduced in size by drop-crotch pruning back to earlier layers or canopies. This will protect the bark of the tree from damage due to sunburn or sunscald and will avoid the detrimental affects of topping.

Most citrus varieties are tip bearers, producing flowers and fruit on new growth that is produced off of one-year-old growth. The weight of developing fruit pulls branches downward onto lower branches or onto the ground.

As leaves, flowers or fruit form on vertical branches, the weight that develops often pulls these branches into a downward growing position. When the apical tip is pulled downward, new vertical shoots develop along the topside of the branch. These vertical branches grow upward until they too are eventually pulled over by the development of leaves, flowers or fruit.

Each layer of branches lies on top of the preceding layer and blocks the lower branches from sunlight. These lower branches eventually die off. The result is a congestion of dead material on the interior of the tree that is conducive to the development of pests and poor tree health.

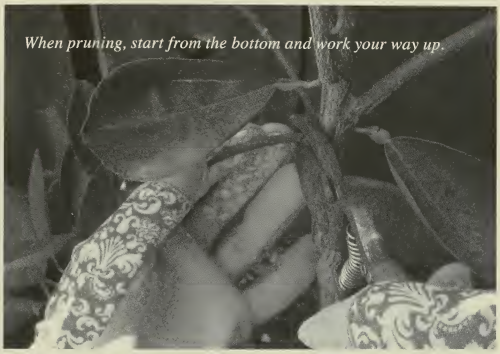
Fruit clusters should be thinned when fruit are approximately one inch in size to prevent branches from breaking and to result in the development of larger, better quality fruit.

Fruit should be spaced approximately two to six inches apart, depending on the variety of citrus and the mature fruit size as well as the size and maturity of the tree.

Sunscald or Sunburn

Citrus trees will sometimes defoliate due to cold or hot weather, due to over watering or under watering or just before a growth flush of flowers of foliage. Pruning can also remove foliage so that the bark of the tree is exposed to direct sunlight. The thin bark of citrus trees is easily damaged or killed when it is exposed to strong or hot direct sunlight. This sun damage may take years to heal over and damaged trees may never fully recover to develop into strong, healthy trees. Sunburn can potentially kill young citrus trees.

In order to prevent potential sunburn from occurring, it is recommended to whitewash any exposed bark, especially during the hotter months or in areas with high temperatures. To whitewash the bark, use white or a light colored water-based interior latex paint that has been thinned with 50 percent water. This will act as a sunscreen and will protect the bark from sun damage. New bark growth can develop through this whitewash without difficulty.



When pruning, start from the bottom and work your way up.

PHOTO: AMY R. WOOD

A Systematic Approach

Step 1: Start at the Ground

Remove suckers (root suckers): Most citrus trees are grafted. All growth arising below the graft or from the root system should be removed to prevent the root stock from dominating and dwarfing out or killing the desired grafted tree.

Step 2: Prune Up

Start pruning each scaffold limb one at a time, beginning with the lowest scaffold limb first. Start at the tree trunk and work your way towards the end of the branch.

Prune for health, structural strength and flower and fruit production, as well as to thin out crowded branches.

Do not remove all interior branches. These interior branches help to increase the girth of the scaffold branches that they are attached to as well as protect the bark from sunburn or sunscald. The interior branches can also give options for drop-crotch pruning if you wish to reduce the size of the tree. Removal of these important branches is called "lion-tailing."

If branches are growing vertically, and are crossing limbs which are growing above them or are crowding nearby branches, drop-crotch, train or remove the limb to prevent overcrowding and crossing.

Remove lower branches that are being covered by upper layers of branches that have lain over the top of them. These lower branches are unproductive and will eventually die due to lack of sunlight.

After being properly pruned, the overall appearance of the scaffold branch will often be feather-like where the branch is horizontal, with side branches and fruiting wood mainly attached to the top and sides of this branch. Small branches may be attached to the bottom of the scaffold, provided they are not too crowded.

Where the branches are more vertical, side branches should be spaced along the branch in a spiraled arrangement with internode distance between branches. Adequate thinning of branches should be done to allow for air circulation and some light penetration

Step 3: Repetition

Move to the next scaffold branch and repeat the procedure outlined in step two. Again start at the base of the branch and work outwards to the tip of the scaffold limb. Remember to focus on only the scaffold limb that you are currently pruning.

Continue working your way around the tree, pruning one scaffold limb at a time. After moving around the tree by working on the lowest scaffold branches, continue up to the next higher scaffold branches and again work your way around the tree pruning each branch one at a time.

Repeat steps two and three until you have finally reached the central leader of the tree. Branch height should descend progressively lower from the central growing point, downward as the branches move further out from the center of the tree.

Step 4: Spacing

Stand back and examine the entire tree. Look for any crowded or crossing branches and drop-crotch, train or remove these branches. Balance the overall tree shape by thinning, drop-crotching or training any scraggly branches.

After being pruned, the tree should have good air circulation throughout the canopy without direct, strong sunlight reaching the bark of the trunk or scaffold branches. Dappled or filtered should reach the ground through the canopy of the tree.

Step 5: Reducing Height, Sun Damage and Expectations

To reduce the height or width of the tree, reduce each branch one at a time by drop-crotching the taller or longer branches. Start at the highest point and reduce each limb to a point below the preceding canopy of branches.

Be sure to whitewash the bark if pruning has exposed the bark of the tree to direct sunlight. Pruning to reduce the tree size may result in loss of fruit production for a period of one to two years.

Don't delay, your citrus will reward you with better health and pest resistance and fruit production on a easy to harvest.

Now is the time

Timely tips to keep your plants happy throughout September and October

African Violets

Barbara Conrad, Carlsbad African Violet Society

- Wash your hands and tools after grooming each plant to avoid spreading any unseen insects.
- Toss old violet soil outside after repotting; the nutrients break down and are no longer helpful to the violet.
- Try your hand at putting down leaves in an equal mixture of perlite and vermiculite to propagate new plants. Hold these "mother" leaves almost vertical by propping up with plastic straws or toothpicks—the wooden ones rot quickly. This process will take two or three months.
- Create small greenhouses for your new plants with a plastic bag over the top of the pot secured with a rubber band. Cut a tiny hole for a minimum of air circulation.

Begonias

Doris Smith, Alfred D. Robinson Begonia Society

- Feed tuberous begonias in September, then withhold water in October.
- Pinch back and give final feeding to begonias in October, unless you feed all year with a balanced fertilizer.
- Take cuttings and leaves for starting new plants.
- Water sparingly—do not allow to dry out or keep too wet.

Bonsai

Kora Dalanger, San Diego Bonsai Club

- Adjust watering schedule to the variable weather. Shallow pots may require watering two or three times daily on hot, dry, windy days.
- Transplant wisteria if you want blossoms next spring.
- Repot quince, olives and podocarpus.
- Move deciduous trees to cool shaded areas so they won't sprout growth.
- Fertilize lightly or not at all in October if you fertilized in September.
- Wait until spring for any major transplanting.

Bromeliad

Mary Seimers, Bromeliad Study Group pf Balboa Park

- Look out for a change of weather; water frequently when the Santa Ana conditions approach.
- Transplant seedlings that developed three small leaves, using small containers.
- Always provide good drainage.
- Start cleaning plants for summer conditions.
- Cut off spent blooms and dead leaves.
- Flush stagnant water out of center cup to prevent center rot.
- Start planning how you are going to protect plants for the coming cold weather.

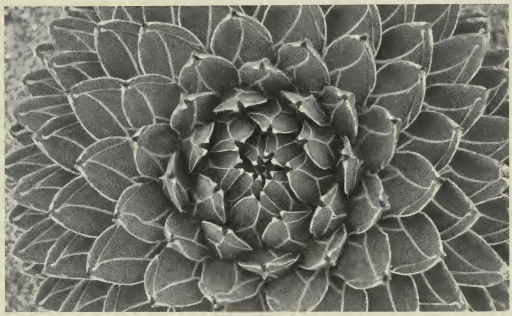


PHOTO: DEBRA LEE BALDWIN

Agave victoria reginae

Cacti and Succulents

Joyce Buckner, The Plant Man Nursery in Old Town

- Continue summertime water regime as long as hot, dry weather persists. This is especially important in newly established gardens.
- Pay attention to nighttime temperatures. As the days get shorter, decrease water in frequency and volume. Stop watering cacti (except hanging ones like Christmas cactus), cactus-like euphorbias and any deciduous caudiform or vining succulents when temps go below 50 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Spring and autumn are the best times to fertilze. Winter growers and established garden succulents (echeverias, aloes, agaves) can be lightly fertilized (dilute) and watered. Be careful not to fertilize plants that are going dormant and not getting any water.
- Remove debris, dead leaves, etc. Don't give garden pests, mealy, mold and snails a place to live.
- Take preventative steps to discourage erosion and accidental drowning, by replacing rock topping and clearing drainage pathways.

Dahlias

Dave Tooley, San Diego County Dahlia Society

- Clean up old leaves and stalks.
- Spray to prevent mildew and spider mites.
- Maintain regular watering through October, then cut back gradually.
- Feed with potash to promote good root growth and to keep plants healthier during the winter.

Epiphyllums

Phil Peck, San Diego Epiphyllum Society

- Protect plants from exposure to direct sunlight.
- Spray-mist to provide moisture during warm spells and to keep stems clean and dust free.
- Prevent soil from completely drying out.
- Protect new growth from wind damage; stake plants and carefully tie to trellis.
- Check for snails and slugs; a few granules of snail bait at the base of the plant are effective and leave little or no residue.
- Feed plants with a final feeding of balanced fertilizer before they become semi-dormant.

Ferns

Bob Halley, San Diego Fern Society

- Keep removing old fronds.
- Water frequently, as most ferns are in full growth now.
- Fertilize with half-strength high-nitrogen liquid or slow-release pellets.
- Spray for aphids, thrips and scale. Keep looking for snails and slugs. Use bait as needed.
- Watch for giant white fly. Treat by wiping off egg spirals.
- Collect and sow spores. New spores should be coming on regularly.
- Protect your plants from the sun. Very few ferns like full sun these hot days.

Steve & Shari Matteson's

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Fruit Trees and Vines

Vincent Lazaneo, Horticulture Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension

- Continue periodic, thorough irrigation to maintain adequate soil moisture until winter rains begin.
- Operate drip irrigation systems until we receive at least two inches of rain; this prevents salt injury.
- Prune out dead and severely damaged shoots of deciduous trees before foliate drops.
- Cover maturing fruit clusters with paper bags (poke small holes for ventilation) to protect maturing fruit from yellow jackets and birds.
- Check on maturity of kiwi fruit. Maturity is measured by a change in seed color from white to brown or black. Pick large fruit first, but harvest before fruit softens.

Herbs

John Noble, Coastal Sage Gardening

- Prune summer's dead growth of perennial herbs such as lavender and rosemary.
- Fertilize and amend all herb beds.
- Plant perennial herbs—mints, French sorrel, Roman chamomile and comfrey among others.
- Dry golden ginkgo leaves for tea.
- Harvest rosehips and vitex berries.
- Bury saffron bulbs.

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UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Sept. 8: What's New & Unique from Seed

Horticulturist, seedswoman, and author **Renee Shepherd** will present a preview of hot items from seed breeders all over the world, including interesting heirloom perennials that bloom the first year. Her cookbooks and seeds will be available for sale. Members free, non-members $5.

Oct. 13: Bamboo, The Earth and Us

Bamboo specialist **Bob Dimattia** will present a program about this enormous member of the grass family, what its prospects are, and how necessary it is now and will continue to be in our future. Members free, non-members $5.

Info: sdhortsoc.org or (760) 295-7089

Irises

Leon Vogel, San Diego/Imperial Counties Iris Society

- Complete your digging and replanting.
- Fertilize again—iris plants in Southern California grow all winter.
- Plant any new iris you may have purchased. Be sure to label markers in waterproof ink.
- Keep weeds under control.
- Check for aphids and white fly and spray if necessary.
- Pull off and discard all dead leaves.

Native Plants

John Noble, Coastal Sage Gardening

- Plan your native plant garden.
- Prepare ground; clear leaves and overgrowth.
- Mulch lightly any bare ground especially hillsides.
- Dig holes.
- Plant species of *Ceanothus*, *Salvia*, *Artemisia*, *Arctostaphylos* or *Minulus* when a real storm is predicted. After the summer the ground is baked dry—fill a hole with water and allow the hole to drain several times before planting.
- Sow wildflower seeds of California poppies, Chinese houses, goldfields and lupines.

Orchids

Christopher Croom, San Diego County Orchid Society

- Start moving in your indoor/warmer growers when the nocturnal temperature drops to 60-65 degrees Fahrenheit (leave *Phalaenopsis* hybrids outside until the nighttime temperature drops to 55 degrees to get them to rebloom).
- Start cutting back on water as the temperature cools.
- Look for spikes on the *Phalaenopsis* hybrids that you've left out all summer—move them in when you see the new spikes.
- Water extra when we get Santa Ana conditions or other heat waves in early fall.
- Look for spikes emerging for many of the Mexican laelia species and their hybrids.

Pelargoniums

Jim Zemcik, San Diego Geranium Society

- Let your plants perform. Avoid unnecessary pruning or cutting.
- Continue cleaning plants by removing dead, older and/or damaged leaves. Be especially watchful for geranium rust.
- Keep a steady water cycle, and abreast of weather reports. If hot weather is forecast, water before the heat sets in. Do not allow plants to totally dry out. Water in the early morning and/or early evenings for best results. Some geraniums will abort all blooms and drop lower foliage of allowed to become too dry.
- Continue feeding with a good commercial fertilizer. Use at one-third to one-half of the label's recommended strength. Apply at two week intervals. If weather goes over 80 degrees Fahrenheit for several days, stop fertilizing. If leaves start to yellow use an iron supplement such as Ironite.
- Deadhead as soon a blooms pass their peak. The high heat may mark the end of the blooming cycle and deadheading will promote new growth and additional branching.
- Continue a pest prevention program. Budworms come at their peak now. Use a good systemic insecticide for best results. If you use a bio product such as *b.thurengensis*, spray at least every seven days.
- If you are past the prevention stage and have a real pest infestation use a multipurpose product such as Immunox. Follow manufacturers' recommendations.

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- Continue to protect plants from severe sun damage. Keep plants out of full sun. Protect larger pots by surrounding them with pots of shorter growing annuals. It may be beneficial when using plastic pots to place a potted plant into a second, empty, container of equal or larger size. This helps to insulate the primary pot and prevent root damage.
- Rotate plants to keep them well shaped and covered with blooms.

Plumerias

Frank Zotter, Southern California Plumeria Society

- Enjoy old and new varieties of blooms, as they are most prolific now. The more you pick, the more they produce.
- Water more often during Santa Ana conditions. It is a good idea to also spray the whole plant during very hot days. This spraying also adds to the stability of the plant base.
- Keep fertilizing once a month as in previous growth periods.
- Make sure plants are staked. Because of large leaf growth, plumeria become very top heavy. During Santa Ana winds, they fall easily and you may lose a branch you have been nurturing.
- Stake with metal electrical conduits. Drive the conduit right through the pot into the soil for maximum stability.

Roses

Al Heck, San Diego Rose Society

- Water well. September and October can include some of our hottest and driest days of the year because of Santa Ana conditions. Imagine a cylinder three feet in diameter and one inch deep. That's how much water each rose needs three times per week. If there's a cool spell, you can get away with two times per week.
- Enjoy the final bloom cycle of hybrid tea roses. This is the best bloom since April, because the intense heat of our summers is giving way to a more moderate sunlight. The final competitive rose shows of the year are during October. Pick one of your blooms and enter it in a show.
- Remove dust and grime weekly by using a vigorous water spray on the entire rose bush. Roses love it; spider mites hate it.
- Plant roses that you forgot about and left in pots waiting for just this moment. They will have developed a strong root ball and will transplant easily into a prepared location. Remember that they need at least a half day of sunlight in that location. Water well after planting.
- Stop fertilizing. Assuming that you have applied enough fertilizer to support the season's final growth spurt and bloom that occurs in October, fertilizer applied after October 1 will be wasted in senseless and diminishing growth as the rose tries to go dormant.
- Analyze how your roses have performed. Those plants that have given you too much trouble or too few flowers may be candidates for replacement during bare root season. The 2009 rose catalogs are available soon and you can start thinking about which new roses you will want to take the place of the dogs you plan to remove.
- Let rose hips develop. The petals on your unharvested roses will gradually turn ugly and perhaps even show the sickly brown decay caused by the Botytis fungus. With your hand, grasp all the petals and pull them off in a single move, leaving that part of the bloom to which the petals were attached. This part will develop into a seed pod (rose hip) and signal to the plant that the sex was great, seeds are being developed and the plant can relax and proceed to dormancy.

PHOTO: RACHEL CORB

Vegetables

Vincent Lazaneo, Horticulture Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension

- Remove warm-season vegetables badly damaged by pests or diseases or past their prime production periods.
- Prepare the soil for planting cool-season vegetables by incorporating composted organic matter and a pre-plant fertilizer high in phosphorus. Begin planting cool-season vegetables: broccoli, Brussels sprouts, beets, cabbage, cararots, cauliflower, endive, fava beans, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, parsley, peas, potatoes (white), spinach and turnips.
- Buy seeds of short-day onion hybrids, as well as garlic cloves to plant in November for bulb production next summer. Onion sets can be planted for a quick crop of green onions, but not for bulbs.
- Dig sweet potatoes before any danger of frost. Be careful not to bruise roots. Dry thoroughly (one or two weeks), wrap in newspaper and store close to 60 degrees Fahrenheit.
- For information about the new citrus psyllid go to the following website *www.californiacitrusthreat.org.*

Carpe Avocado!

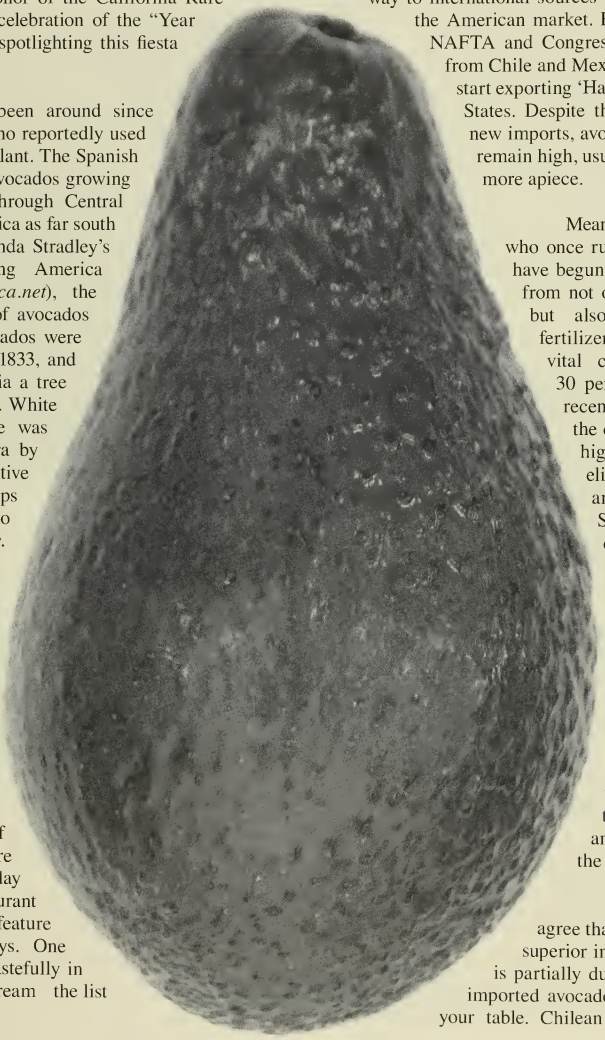
Carpe diem with one of San Diego County's favorite fruits

By Roman "Pete" Krupczak

Seize the day—seize the avocado! This luscious precursor to guacamole is one of the favorite fruit trees in Southern California due to our ideal climate and the ease of growing it here. In honor of the California Rare Fruit Growers and their celebration of the "Year of the Avocado," we are spotlighting this fiesta favorite.

Avocados have been around since the days of the Aztecs, who reportedly used the fruit as a sexual stimulant. The Spanish Conquistadors recorded avocados growing from northern Mexico through Central America into South America as far south as Peru. According to Linda Stradley's website, What's Cooking America (*www.whatscookingamerica.net*), the first written description of avocados dates back to 1518! Avocados were introduced to Florida in 1833, and in Los Angeles, California a tree was planted by Thomas J. White in 1856. The first grove was growing in Santa Barbara by 1871. Aggressive and creative marketing by grower groups like the California Avocado Commission (*www.avocado.org*) contributed greatly to spreading knowledge of avocados to all of our other states. As the avocado became recognized and accepted for its nutritional and taste value, usage slowly expanded throughout the country.

Now, in many of our homes, avocados are regarded as an everyday staple food source. Restaurant menus from coast to coast feature avocados in unique ways. One can find avocados used tastefully in soups, pies and even ice cream the list goes on.



Demand for the fruit has developed into a year-round situation. Southern California, long the major producer and supplier of avocados to American kitchens, has gradually given way to international sources of the 'Hass' avocado for the American market. Retailers—with help from NAFTA and Congress—now import avocados from Chile and Mexico. Peru is next in line to start exporting 'Hass' avocados to the United States. Despite the millions of pounds of new imports, avocado prices at the market remain high, usually selling for a dollar or more apiece.

Meanwhile, California growers, who once ruled the domestic market, have begun to experience difficulties from not only the new competition but also rapidly rising labor, fertilizer and water costs all vital components. This year's 30 percent water cutbacks and recent wildfires compounded the challenges. The result is a high potential for the eventual elimination of the smaller and less efficient grower. Some in the industry are even predicting a total phase out of California's commercial groves over the next several years. If you drive north along Highway 15 between Escondido and Temecula, you will see thousands of avocado trees stumped and whitewashed. This was done in an effort to temporarily reduce water and fertilizer needs until the trees grow back.

Consumers and retailers agree that California avocados are superior in flavor and quality. This is partially due to the time it takes an imported avocado to get from the tree to your table. Chilean avocados, for example,

are in transit for two weeks before hitting our shores! For this reason, it is an opportune time for home gardeners in Southern California to consider adding a tree or two to their landscape.

What variety to grow?

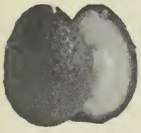
Many consumers think that the only kind of avocado is the rough-skinned Hass they see in their supermarket. Perhaps that's because the 'Hass' variety accounts for approximately 95 percent of the total crop. But there is more to the avocado. The University of California lists over 1,000 avocado varieties in their database! The California Avocado Commission has narrowed the California field to the following seven popular, commercially grown and marketed varieties. They are the ones you are most likely to be able to purchase.

'Bacon'

A mid-winter green-skinned variety of good quality, the 'Bacon' has medium-sized fruit available late fall into spring. This oval-shaped fruit, medium to large seed, peels easily and has a light taste. Though the skin remains green, it darkens slightly when ripe, and fruit yields to gentle pressure.

'Fuerte'

An established favorite, the 'Fuerte' is the original high quality California avocado, with smooth thin green skin and creamy, pale green flesh. It is harvested late fall through spring. It is pear-shaped with a medium seed; it peels easily and has a great taste. The skin remains green, and the fruit yields to gentle pressure when ripe.



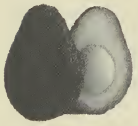
'Gwen'

A 'Hass'-like green variety, 'Gwen' is similar in appearance, taste and texture to 'Hass', but slightly larger. It has pebbly, thick but pliable green skin, and creamy, gold-green flesh. This plump oval fruit has a small to medium seed, peels easily and has a great taste. 'Gwen's' green skin turns dull when ripe, and the fruit yields to gentle pressure.

'Hass'

The year-round avocado, 'Hass' is distinctive for its skin, which turns from green to purplish-black when ripe. The 'Hass' is the leading variety of California avocado and has an excellent shelf life. It has a pebbly, thick but pliable skin, and pale green flesh with creamy texture. The oval-shaped fruit has a small to medium seed, peels easily and tastes great.

When ripe, the skin darkens, and the fruit yields to gentle pressure.

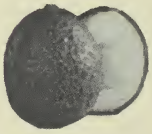


'Lamb Hass'

The California summer sun variety (June through October), 'Lamb Hass' has exceptional flavor and a large robust size are the hallmark of this new avocado variety. Oval shaped, with a medium-size seed, it looks and ripens like a 'Hass' avocado. It features pebbly skin with pale green flesh, a smooth, creamy, nutty taste and is typically large in size. Its skin darkens when ripe, with the fruit yielding to gentle pressure when squeezed.

'Pinkerton'

A premium winter variety, 'Pinkerton' avocados have small seeds, yield more fruit per tree and are available in a full range of sizes early winter through spring. It has medium thick green skin with slight pebbling, and creamy, pale green flesh. This long, pear-shaped fruit has a small seed, excellent peeling characteristics and great taste. The 'Pinkerton's' green skin deepens in color as it ripens, and fruit yields to gentle pressure when ripe.



'Reed'

The summertime variety, this large, round fruit is available in the summer months and early fall. It features thick green skin with slight pebbling, a medium seed and creamy flesh. It peels easily and tastes great. The 'Reed's' skin remains green as it ripens, and the fruit yields to gentle pressure when ripe.

'Zutano'

A season opener, the 'Zutano' is one of the first varieties harvested when the season begins in September and is available through early winter. Easily recognized by its shiny, yellow-green skin, this pear-shaped fruit has pale green flesh with light texture, is moderately easy to peel with a light taste. Its skin retains color when ripe, and fruit yields to gentle pressure when ripe.

It pays to take your time to select just the right combination of the characteristics you want. You'll be living with your avocado tree for a long time. You might want the popular 'Hass' variety, which can provide fruit from late December through summer. If you want a steadier supply, consider also planting a 'Lamb Hass' tree and be happy from late June through autumn. With this combination you're assured almost a full twelve-months of avocados.

Planting Your Avocado

The best time to plant is from April to June. However, with care, you can plant any time of the year. Just use these simple planting steps as a guide and in a short time, you and your family will be enjoying your own delicious and nutritious avocados.

Start by selecting a sunny spot. Your avocado tree will want at least 12 feet in diameter of ground space; this allows a tree 12 to 15 feet in height. Avocado trees will grow higher and wider, but with occasional pruning can easily be kept to size for easier harvest. Make sure your soil drains well and is somewhat alkaline.

Next, dig the hole. Using your spade as a template against the plant ball, dig a hole two feet wide, and deep enough so the top of the root ball is one inch above ground level. Do not amend the soil!

Set the plant. Place the plant and sleeve into the hole and then carefully cut the sleeve away, disturbing the roots as little as possible. Backfill to the halfway point and water. Complete the backfill then use the spade handle to lightly probe around the root ball to eliminate any air spots.

Water your newly planted avocado thoroughly. Form a trough around the tree and water in 15 or 20 gallons. Sprinkle an inch of gypsum around the plant. Then, add five or six inches of mulch or wood chips will finish the job. Keep the mulch away from the tree trunk. Water again and keep the tree moist allowing the surface soil to dry a bit between waterings.

Keep in mind that avocado trees need lots of water. Do not let the root ball dry during the first phase of growth. You must have a good and dependable water source for this tree. Timed, drip spinner irrigation is the easiest and most cost-effective. Initially, apply water by hand—approximately two to three gallons, two or three times a week will do fine. As the tree matures, you can switch to timed irrigation, increasing water amounts as needed. A moisture probe can be used to check around the root ball.

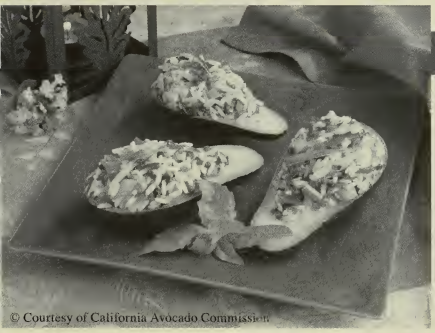
By the fourth or fifth year the tree will be mature; plan for watering between 6 to 15 hours weekly at 15 gallons per hour. The peak of 15 hours is usually needed during the hottest summer period, while fewer hours will do for the cooler months of the year. Avocado trees when mature can survive with less water, but will produce fewer and smaller fruit. Less water can mean the tree may become stressed.

Small amounts of fertilizer ammonium sulphate, calcium nitrate or triple 15 (15-15-15) should be sprinkled around the new tree starting with a tablespoon every three or four weeks, gradually increasing the dosage and interval. By tree maturity (12 to 15 feet tall), broadcast at the rate of one to one and a half pounds of fertilizer each spring, summer and fall around the tree's drip line.

Fruiting should begin during the second or third year. Early in spring you will see flowers followed by tiny 'BBs' that will become avocados in a few more months. What fun! Time for guacamole!

Anyone interested in avocados or other interesting fruits can join the San Diego chapter of California Rare Fruit Growers (*www.crfgsandiego.org*) at 7:00 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of the month in Room 101 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Or, celebrate the Year of the Avocado with statewide members in Orange County September 19 and 20. (*http://festivaloffruit.org*).

For more information, visit www.mastergardenerssandiego.org *or contact the author at* rpkrup@gmail.com.



© Courtesy of California Avocado Commission

Nutrition Facts

Those familiar with the USDA's food pyramid know that a diet rich in fruits and vegetables is a key to maintaining a healthy, happy lifestyle. But did you know that the vitamin-rich avocado ranks as one of the best fruits around as a source of important disease-fighting compounds? Here are five things you might not have known about the avocado's nutritional benefits.

1) Avocados are one of the few fruits that provide good fats. High in monosaturated fat and omega-3 fatty acids, avocado consumption has been linked to a reduced risk of heart disease, diabetes, cancer, depression and Alzheimer's disease.

2) Naturally sodium-free and cholesterol-free, avocados can be used in place of mayonnaise, butter and margarine as a healthy spread on sandwiches.

3) Among all fruits, California avocados rank highest in lutein. Lutein acts as an antioxidant, and helps block cholestoral absorption.

4) Avocados are 50 calories per serving (about one-fifth of a medium sized avocado); this is fewer calories per serving than popular spreads and dips like sour cream (60 cal.), cream cheese (99 cal.) and peanut butter (168 cal.). It is also lower in total fat per gram and saturated fat per gram, with zero grams per serving.

5) Need help with your weight-loss program? Try incorporating avocados, which are high in water and fiber. Foods high in water and fiber leave those who eat them feeling full. *—Amy R. Wood*

Problems to Watch For

Good plant care goes a long way toward keeping trees healthy and pest resistant. Fortunately, pests are not yet a major issue with backyard avocados. Nevertheless, if your tree seems to be having problems, it may be one of the following issues.

During recent years, commercial growers have begun to experience serious problems with two pests: Avocado thrips (*Thysanoptera:Thripidae*) and Persea mite (*Acari: Tetranychidae*). Thrips attack the skin and appearance of the avocado (primarily the 'Hass' variety) and affects its marketability. The Persea mite attacks avocado tree leaves causing premature leaf drop, fruit scorching and fruit drop. Control is achieved by using controlled chemicals applied by professionals.

The avocado lace bug *Psuedacysta perseae (Hemiptera:Tingidae)* was detected in some local home gardens in 2004. Lace bugs cause damage by feeding on the underside of leaves. Lacewings, a type of beneficial insect, can aid in their control.

Other pests have been around for years and are generally under control. A more recent and potentially serious pest—the Diaprepes root weevil (*Coleoptera: Curculionidae*) attacks the leaves and roots. (*Ed. Note: See* California Garden's *July/August 08 issue for more on the Diaprepes root weevil.*) This pest is just beginning to infest avocado tree groves and researchers are busy seeking out the best available control options.

Avocado root rot (*Phytothora*) is another nuisance, primarily in large commercial groves. Control is usually achieved with chemical trunk injections. This can be a problem in home gardens with poor drainage, or when *Phytothora* is already present in the soil. Root-rot resistant root stocks are available, and should be considered if planting in a suspicious environment.

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SDFA Calendar

A listing of the best gardening-related activities in the county for September and October 2008

September Events

SEPTEMBER 2

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY MEETING

The SDCOS is holding two meetings: a general meeting and a novice class for those interested in learning more about orchids. Everyone is welcome!

When: Novice Class, 6:30 p.m.; General Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 104 (Novice Class), Room 101 (General Meeting) Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More information: *www.sdorchids.com*

NCA LANDSCAPE DESIGN STUDY PROGRAM **TWO DAY EVENT**

This is course one in a series of design study offerings.

When: 8:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m., (Tuesday, Sept. 2 and Wednesday, Sept. 3)
Where: Temecula Public Community Room, 30600 Pauba Rd., Temecula, CA
More information: Felicia Hogan, 951-587-8181, *felicia@roadrunner.com*

SEPTEMBER 5

VISTA GARDEN CLUB MEETING

The monthly meeting begins at noon, and the program begins about 1:15 p.m.

When: 12:00 p.m.–2:00 p.m.
Where: Gloria McClellan Senior Center, 1200 Vale Terrace Dr., Vista, CA
More information: *www.vistagardenclub.org*

SEPTEMBER 6

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PLUMERIA SOCIETY ANNUAL SHOW AND PLANT SALE **TWO DAY EVENT**

Come enjoy the Hawaiian atmosphere, smell the fragrant blossoms and view the prize-winning blooms of the judged show. Hundreds of plants grown by club members will be for sale at great club prices, and a raffle will be held. Free admission.

When: 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. (Saturday Sept. 6 and Sunday Sept. 7)
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More information: *www.socalplumeriasociety.com*

SEPTEMBER 7

SAN DIEGO & IMPERIAL COUNTIES IRIS SOCIETY PLANT SALE

The Iris Society holds its annual sale at Balboa Park Casa del Prado patio—please stop by!

When: 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
Where: Casa de Prado, Patio B, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: Pat Brendel, 760-723-7577

SEPTEMBER 8

SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY MEETING

Come hear guest speaker Renee Shepherd, of Renee's Garden Seeds. Admission for members is free; there is a $5 fee for non-members.

When: 6:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.
Where: Surfside Race Place, Del Mar Fairgrounds, 260 Jimmy Durante Blvd. Del Mar, CA
More information: 760-295-7089, *www.sdhortsoc.org*

SEPTEMBER 9

DOS VALLES GARDEN CLUB

Monthly meetings are designed to educate by providing interesting and diversified programs.

When: 12:00 p.m.
Where: St. Stephen Catholic Church, 31020 Cole Grade Road, Valley Center, CA
More information: *www.dosvallesgardenclub.org*

SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY MEETING

The San Diego Geranium Society Meeting features guest speakers, plant raffles and refreshments; plant cuttings are usually available. Bring a friend, bring a plant for raffle and enjoy!

When: 7:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More information: Brenda Archer, 619-447-8243, *www.sdgeranium.org*

SEPTEMBER 8-11

CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUBS, INC. BOARD MEETINGTHREE DAY EVENT****

Learn more about CGCI at the fall board meeting.

When: Contact for more details
Where: Gold Miners Inn-Best Western, 121 Bank St., Grass Valley, CA
More information: Ed Dempsey, Treas. 916-723-2508, *www.californiagardenclubs.org*

SEPTEMBER 10

BONITA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

Come hear Cynthia Pardoe of the San Diego Geranium Society speak on "Our love affair with Geraniums"

When: 10:00 a.m
Where: Bonita Library Community Room, 4375 Bonita Rd., Bonita, CA
More Information: Darlene Montgomery, 619-267-1585, *dmontg@live.com*

POINT LOMA GARDEN CLUB

Join the PL Garden Club for their monthly meeting.

When: 10:45 a.m.
Where: Portuguese Hall, 2818 Avenida de Portugal, San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.plgc.org*

RAMONA GARDEN CLUB

Come join the Ramona Garden Club for refreshments, door prize, plant swapping, plant sales and program.

When: 12:00 p.m.
Where: Ramona Women's Club, 524 Main Street, Ramona, CA
More information: *www.ramonagardenclub.com*

SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY MEETING

Come learn about epiphyllums at this monthly meeting. A special drawing is held among attending members and all first-time guests are welcomed with a free four-inch potted epi—be sure to sign in to be eligible.

When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More information: *www.epiphyllum.com*

SEPTEMBER 14

SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB

The San Diego Bonsai Club has two monthly offerings: a 9:00 a.m. classes for beginner and novice members, and a 10:30 a.m. meeting and program.

When: 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com*

SEPTEMBER 15

SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY ROSE MEETING

Visitors are always welcome to these monthly meetings. This month: a Little Rose Show. Learn the tips to enhance the beauty of your blossoms in Exhibiting 101. Potluck Dinner, please bring a dish to share.

When: 6:00 p.m. Little Rose Show, 6:30 p.m. Pot Luck Dinner, 7:30 p.m. program
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.sdrosesociety.org*

SEPTEMBER 16

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SAN DIEGO CHAPTER MEETING

Come join the San Diego Chapter at 6:30 p.m. for a mixer and sales table, then stay for 7:30 meeting. Free to the public.

When: 6:30 pm.–9:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101 or 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.cnpssd.org*

LA JOLLA GARDEN CLUB

This is La Jolla Garden Club's monthly meeting

When: 1:30 p.m.
Where: La Jolla Lutheran Church, 7111 La Jolla Blvd. La Jolla, CA
More information: President Fran Sheibein, 858-450-1769

RANCHO SAN DIEGO GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Join in at this monthly meeting.
When: 9:30 a.m.
Where: Contact for more details
More information: Carol Wells, 619-749-8325

SEPTEMBER 18

BERNARDO GARDENERS GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Join the Bernardo Gardeners Garden Club for their monthly meeting.
When: 1:30 p.m.
Where: Rancho Bernardo Library Community Room (upstairs), 17110 Bernardo Center Drive, Rancho Bernardo, San Diego, CA
More information: *www.bernardogardeners.org*

SAN DIEGO FERN SOCIETY MEETING
The San Diego Fern Society meeting is an opportunity for people to study ferns together and encourage the joy and use of ferns in gardens, patios and homes. Guests are welcome.
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.sdfern.com*

SEPTEMBER 23

SAN DIEGO DAHLIA SOCIETY MEETING
This is the Dahlia Society's monthly meeting.
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: President David J. Tooley, 858-672-2593

SEPTEMBER 24

MISSION HILLS GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Monthly meetings are free to members. While guests are welcome, there is an admission fee of $10 for non-members.
When: 6:30 p.m.–9:00 p.m.
Where: Mission Hills United Church of Christ, 4070 Jackson St., San Diego, CA
More information: *www.missionhillsgardenclub.org*

SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY MEETING
Get your questions about bromeliads answered at this monthly meeting.
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html*

SAN DIEGO RARE FRUIT GROWERS SAN DIEGO CHAPTER MEETING
This is the San Diego Chapter's monthly meeting. Learn how to select and grow rare fruit in San Diego
When: 7:00 p.m. – 9:00p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.crfgsandiegio.org*

SEPTEMBER 25

VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB OF LA JOLLA
This is the Village Garden Club of La Jolla's monthly meeting.
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Torrey Pines Christian Church, 1802 Amalfi St., La Jolla, CA
More information: Ann Craig, 858-454-4117, *www.villagegardencluboflajolla.com*

SEPTEMBER 27

BONSAI CLUB FALL SHOW **TWO DAY EVENT**
Learn more about the ancient art of Bonsai at this special weekend-long event.
When: 12:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m. (Saturday, Sept. 27), 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. (Sunday, Sept. 28)
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: Brenda Storey, 619-699-8776

SEPTEMBER 30

FALLBROOK GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Programs, speakers, workshops, study groups and tours cover a variety of garden related topics, and give members the opportunity to expand their knowledge and interests.
When: 12:30 p.m. social, 1:00 p.m. meeting
Where: Fallbrook Community Center, 341 Heald Lane, Fallbrook, CA
More Information: *www.geocities.com/fallbrookgardenclub*

October Events

OCTOBER 3

VISTA GARDEN CLUB MEETING
The Vista Garden Club Monthly Meeting begins at noon, and the program begins about 1:15 p.m.
When: 12:00 p.m.–2:00: p.m.
Where: Gloria McClellan Senior Center, 1200 Vale Terrace Dr. Vista, CA
More information: *www.vistagardenclub.org*

OCTOBER 4-5

AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY SHOW **TWO DAY EVENT**
This big begonia show is sponsored by Mabel Corwin, Margaret Lee, Alfred D. Robinson Begonia Branches. It is open to the public.
When: 9:00a.m.–5:00 p.m. (Saturday, Oct. 4), 9:00 a.m. (Sunday, Oct. 5)
Where: Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More information: Denise Hnobloch, 619-409-4997

SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY ANNUAL PLANT SALE
****TWO DAY EVENT****
The Wild Animal Park's Epiphyllum House is a beautiful tribute to these surprising plants, created and maintained by dedicated volunteers of the San Diego Epiphyllum Society. It displays almost 600 plants, and with names like 'Sparkling Burgundy', 'Candy Barr', 'Ice Follies', 'Obsidian Queen', and 'Greek god', how can you resist? look for epiphyllum cuttings for sale at the Nairobi Plant Trader shop!
When: 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. (park hours)
Where: Nairobi Village, San Diego Wild Animal Park, Escondido, CA
McClellan Senior Center, 1400 Vale Terrace Dr., Vista, CA
More information: *www.epiphyllum.com* **or** *www.sandiegozoo.org/wap*

OCTOBER 5

VISTA GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Come on out for this monthly meeting.
When: 12:00 p.m.
Where: Gloria McClellan Senior Center, 1400 Vale Terrace Dr., Vista, CA
More information: *www.vistagardenclub.org*

OCTOBER 6

PALOMAR DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA FLORAL DESIGN FORUM
Enjoy the talents and humor of the NGC Designer team, Shane Looper and Mary Crowell. Open to those interested in floral design; there is an $8 fee.
When: 12:30 p.m.
Where: Woman's Club, 3320 Monroe St, Carlsbad, CA
More information: 760-749-4976, *www.geocities.com/pdgardenclubs*

OCTOBER 7

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY MEETING
The SDCOS is holding two meetings: a general meeting and a novice class for those interested in learning more about orchids. Everyone is welcome!
When: Novice Class 6:30 p.m., General Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 104 (Novice Class), Room 101 (General Meeting) Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More information: *www.sdorchids.com*

OCTOBER 8

BONITA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB
This month's theme: How to Prepare for a Flower Show. Kathy Taylor de Murillo and Carvill Veech will demonstrate mechanics of design, and Darlene Montgomery will show how to prepare horticulture exhibits.
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Bonita Library Community Room, 4375 Bonita Rd., Bonita, CA
More Information: Darlene Montgomery, 619-267-1585, *dmontg@live.com*

POINT LOMA GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Join the Point Loma group for their monthly meeting.
When: 10:45 a.m.
Where: Portuguese Hall, 2818 Avenida de Portugal, San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.plgc.org*

RAMONA GARDEN CLUB
Come join the Ramona Garden Club for refreshments, door prize, plant swapping, plant sales and program.
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Where: Ramona Women's Club, 524 Main Street, Ramona, CA
More information: *www.ramonagardenclub.com*

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Come learn about epiphyllums at this monthly meeting. A special drawing is held among attending members and all first-time guests are welcomed with a free four-inch potted epi– be sure to sign in to be eligible.
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Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More information: *www.epiphyllum.com*

OCTOBER 11

AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY—MABEL CORWIN BRANCH MEETING
Come listen to educational speakers focused on begonias and other shade-loving plants and much more.
When: 1:00 p.m.
Where: Encinitas Community Center, 1140 Oak Crest Park Dr. Encinitas, CA
More information: President Denise Knobloch, 619-409-4997

SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY MEETING
Learn more about these water-saving plants at the SDCSS's monthly meeting.
When: 1:00 p. m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More information: *www.sdcss.com*

OCTOBER 12

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Where: Room 101 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com*

OCTOBER 13

SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY MEETING
Come out and listen to Bob Dimattia speak about bamboo. Admission for members is free; there is a $5 fee for non-members $5.
When: 6:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.
Where: Surfside Race Place, Del Mar Fairgrounds, 260 Jimmy Durante Blvd., Del Mar, CA
More information: www.sdhortsoc.org 760-295-7089

OCTOBER 14

DOS VALLES GARDEN CLUB
Monthly meetings are designed to educate by providing interesting and diversified programs.
When: 12:00 p.m.
Where: St. Stephen Catholic Church, 31020 Cole Grade Road, Valley Center, CA.
More information: *www.dosvallesgardenclub.org*

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Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More information: Brenda Archer, 619-447-8243, *www.sdgeranium.org*

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Where: Rancho Bernardo Library Community Room (upstairs), 17110 Bernardo Center Drive, Rancho Bernardo, San Diego, CA
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The San Diego Fern Society meeting is an opportunity for people to study ferns together and encourage the joy and use of ferns in gardens, patios and homes. Guests are welcome.
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.sdfern.com*

OCTOBER 18

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SAN DIEGO CHAPTER PLANT SALE
Come early and bring a wagon for this popular annual native plant sale.
When: 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
Where: Patio B, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.cnpssd.org*

OCTOBER 18 -19

IKENOBO SCHOOL OF IKEBANA FALL SHOW **TWO DAY EVENT**
Learn and enjoy at this fabulous show.
When: 11:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
Where: Patio B, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More information: Haruko Crawford, 619-660-2046

OCTOBER 20

SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY ROSE MEETING
Monthly meeting, visitors are always welcome. Little Rose Show and Exhibiting 101; learn the tips to enhance the beauty of your blossoms. There is a Potluck Dinner, please bring a dish to share.
When: 6:00 p.m. Little Rose Show, 6:30 p.m. Pot Luck Dinner; 7:30 p.m. Meeting and Program.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.sdrosesociety.org*

OCTOBER 21

LA JOLLA GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Join the La Jolla Garden Club for their monthly meeting.
When: 1:30 p.m.
Where: Where: La Jolla Lutheran Church, 7111 La Jolla Blvd. La Jolla, CA
More information:Fran Sheibein, 858-450-1769

RANCHO SAN DIEGO GARDEN CLUB MEETING
This is RSDGC's monthly meeting.
When: 9:30 a.m.
Where: Contact for more details
More information: Carol Wells, 619-749-8325

OCTOBER 22

MISSION HILLS GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Monthly meetings are free to members. While guests are welcome, there is an admission fee of $10 for non-members.
When: 6:30p.m.–9:00p.m.
Where: Mission Hills United Church of Christ, 4070 Jackson St., San Diego, CA
More information: *www.missionhillsgardenclub.org*

SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY MEETING
Learn all about bromeliads at this monthly meeting.
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html*

SAN DIEGO RARE FRUIT GROWERS SAN DIEGO CHAPTER MEETING
Monthly meeting. Learn how to select and grow rare fruit in San Diego.
When: 7:00 p.m.–9:00p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.crfgsandiegio.org*

OCTOBER 23

VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB OF LA JOLLA
Join this group for their monthly meeting.
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Torrey Pines Christian Church, 1802 Amalfi St., La Jolla, CA
More Information: Ann Craig, 858-454-4117, *www.villagegardencluboflajolla.com*

OCTOBER 24

SAN DIEGO COUNTY FALL ORCHID SHOW **TWO DAY EVENT**
Please attend the San Diego County's fall show in the Park. To volunteer, please send an email to *tombigger@mac.com*.
When: Plant registration 6:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m. (Friday, Oct. 24), 11:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m. (Saturday, Oct. 25), 9:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m. (Sunday, Oct. 26)
More Information: *www.sdorchids.com/www/shows.htm*

OCTOBER 27

PALOMAR DISTRICT MEETING
Contact the group for meeting details.
When: Board Meeting -10:00 a.m. Regular Meeting 11:15 a.m.
Where: Windmill, 890 Palomar Airport Rd, Carlsbad, CA
More Information: Director Jerry Thirolway, 858-755-3284

OCTOBER 28

SAN DIEGO DAHLIA SOCIETY MEETING
Come join this dedicated group and learn more about this stunning perennial plant.
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: President, David J. Tooley, 858-672-2593

FALLBROOK GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Programs, speakers, workshops, study groups and tours cover a variety of garden related topics, and give members the opportunity to expand their knowledge and interests.
When: 12:30 p.m. social, 1:00 p.m. meeting
Where: Fallbrook Community Center, 341 Heald Lane, Fallbrook, CA
More Information: *www.geocities.com/fallbrookgardenclub*

Gardening Classes

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY, PT. LOMA GARDENING CLASS
Learn a variety of gardening tricks every Saturday morning by attending a free class at Walter Andersen Nursery's Pt. Loma Nursery. Please contact the store for a schedule of events.
When: 9:00 a.m.–10:00 a.m., every Saturday
Where: Walter Andersen's Pt. Loma, 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.walterandersen.com*

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY, POWAY GARDENING CLASS
Come join others at Walter Andersen's Poway store for a free, weekly seasonal garden lecture . Please contact the store for a schedule of events.
When: 9:30 a.m.–10:30 a.m., every Saturday
Where: Walter Andersen's Poway, 12755 Danielson Court, Poway, CA
More Information: *www.walterandersen.com*

WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN CLASSES
The Water Conservation Garden provides a number of entertaining, information-packed courses covering the most topical gardening topics and presented by skilled and knowledgeable experts. Please contact the Water Conservation Garden for program details and any applicable fees.
When: Contact for program-specific times.
Where: 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon, CA
More Information: *www.thegarden.org*, **619-660-0614, x10**

Walks, Tours & Garden Events

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS TOUR
Come and meet up at the Visitor's Center for a weekly tour of the Quail Botanical Gardens. No reservations required. Free with admission.
When: 10:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m., every Saturday
Where: Quail Botanical Gardens, 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas, CA
More Information: *www.qbgardens.org*

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS: CHILDREN'S EVENTS
The Quail Botanical Garden offers a number of events specially designed to entertain and educate children and their caregivers. Please contact Quail Botanical Gardens for a complete listing of their scheduled events.
When: Ongoing—contact for program-specific times.
Where: Quail Botanical Gardens, 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas, CA
More Information: *www.qbgardens.org*

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS: CHILDREN'S EVENTS
The Quail Botanical Garden offers a number of events for adults and families. Please contact Quail Botanical Gardens for a complete listing of their scheduled events.
When: Contact for program-specific times.
Where: Quail Botanical Gardens, 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas, CA
More Information: *www.qbgardens.org*

WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN TOUR
Enjoy a docent-led tour of the Water Conservation Garden at Cuyamaca College .
When: Every Saturday at 10:30 a.m. and every Sunday at 1:30 p.m.
Where: Water Conservation Garden, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon, CA
More Information: http://thegarden.org

CNPS NATIVE PLANT WALK
Join landscape architect and member of the CNPS San Diego Chapter Kay Stewart for a two-hour, easy walk into Tecolote Canyon and back. Along the way you'll study and learn about the plants. This guided walk is free.
When: 9 a.m.–11:00 a.m., first Sunday of the month
Where: Tecolote Canyon Nature Center, 5180 Tecolote Road, San Diego, CA
More Information: *http://cnpssd.org*

BUENA CREEK GARDENS FREE GARDEN TOUR
Join Steve Brigham for this free, monthly garden tour.
When: 10:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m., second Saturday of each month
Where: Buena Creek Gardens, 418 Buena Creek Rd. San Marcos, CA
More Information: *www.buenacreekgardens.com*

SAN DIEGO CHINESE HISTORICAL MUSEUM AND GARDEN
Come visit the San Diego Chinese Historical Museum's exquisite Asian garden.
When: 10:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday; 12:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m., Sunday
Where: San Diego Chinese Historical Museum and Garden, 404 3rd Ave., San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.sdchm.org/garden*

Balboa Park Events

SAN DIEGO ZOO
Visit the world famous San Diego Zoo for Plant Days and Orchid Odyssey.
When: 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m., third Friday of each month
Where: San Diego Zoo, 2920 Zoo Drive, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.sandiegozoo.com*

SAN DIEGO JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN
Enhance your well-being with a visit to this Japanese-style garden, There is a $4 fee for adults, $2.50 fee for Seniors (55+), children and military with I.D.
When: 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday
Where: San Diego Japanese Friendship Garden, 2215 Pan American Road, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.niwa.org*

BALBOA PARK OFFSHOOT TOURS
Learn about Balboa Park's plants as volunteer horticulturists lead visitors on free, one-hour themed walks. (Inclement weather and low-turnout cancels the tour.)
When: 10:00 a.m., every Saturday starting January 12
Where: Balboa Park Visitor Center, 1549 El Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.balboapark.org*

PHOTO: AMY R. WOOD

BALBOA PARK INTERPRETIVE WALKS
Join volunteer-guides on this free, history-oriented walk through Balboa Park.
When: 1:00 p.m., every Tuesday
Where: Balboa Park Visitor Center, 1549 El Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.balboapark.org*

SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM CANYONEER WALKS
Join trained volunteer guides on a local canyon walks. There is a $2 fee.
When: Times vary; check website for specific event details
Where: Locations vary; check website for specific event details
More Information: *www.sdnhm.org/canyoneers*

Continued on page 35

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION

Garden Center and Library – Founded in 1907

1650 El Prado #105, San Diego, CA 92101-1684 619-232-5762 Located in Casa del Prado, Room 105, Balboa Park

Under the sponsorship of the Park & Recreation Department, City of San Diego, California

Mission Statement: To Promote The Knowledge And Appreciation Of Horticulture And Floriculture In The San Diego Region.

GENERAL MEETINGS

2008

February 19

April 15

June 17

October 21

Casa del Prado, Room 101

Balboa Park, San Diego

OFFICERS

President
Nancy Carter

First Vice President
Connie Brown

Second Vice President
Sandra Graff

Treasurer
Constance Whitney

Recording Secretary
Kathy Taylor de Murillo

Corresponding Secretary
Lucy Kramer

Historian
Thea Gums

Parlimentarian
Barbara Forrest

DIRECTORS

Term 2006-2009
Lynne Batchelor
Laura Starr
Kay Harry

Term 2007-2010
Joanne Dossett
Michelle Kownacki
Linda Lindgren

Term 2008-2011
Sandra Dysart
Cheryl Gaidmore
Amy R. Wood

Arrangers Guild Chair
Suzanne Michel

AFFILIATES:

CHIRP FOR GARDEN WILDLIFE, INC.
Exec. Director: Maureen Austin 619-445-8352
P. O. Box 532
Alpine, CA 91903-0532

CITY BEAUTIFUL OF SAN DIEGO
Pres: Kathy Puplava 858-576-3828
Box 9424, San Diego, CA 92169-0424
Website: *www.citybeautifulofsandiego.org*

FRIENDS OF THE HORTENSE MILLER GARDEN
Information: 949-499-5518
P. O. Box 742, Laguna Beach, CA 92652-0742
Email: *marshab@gte.net*

JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN BALBOA PARK
Contact: Luanne Lao 619-232-2721
2125 Park Blvd., San Diego, CA 92101-4792

PALOMAR DISTRICT CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUBS, INC.
Dir: Jerry Thirloway 858-755-3284
1105 Santa Madera Ct.
Solana Beach, CA 92075

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS FOUNDATION, INC
Exec. Dir.: Julian Duval 760-436-3036
P. O. Box 230005, Encinitas, CA 92023-0005

SAN DIEGO BOTANICAL GARDEN FOUNDATION
Pres: Victor Tongco 619-234-8901
2125 Park Blvd., San Diego, CA 92101-4792

SAN DIEGO CHINESE HISTORICAL MUSEUM AND GARDEN
Exec. Dir: Alexander Chuang 619-338-9888
404 Third Ave., San Diego, CA 92101-6803

SAN DIEGO ZOO
Horticulture Dept. 619-231-1515 Ext. 4298
P. O. Box 120551, San Diego, CA 92112-0551

SOUTHWESTERN JUDGES COUNCIL
Chair: Nancy Abernethy 760-742-1842
P. O. Box 876, Pauma Valley, CA 92061-0876
1st Wed - 10:30 am
Sep., Nov., Jan., Mar., May, North County Fair, Escondido, Community Room

TAKA SUMI-E SOCIETY
Contact: Takashi Ijichi 619-255-2501
1455 49th St., San Diego, CA 92102-2625
1st Sun - 9:00-11:00 a.m., Casa del Prado
Feb., Mar., Apr., Sep., Oct., Nov.

WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN
Librarian: Joan Endres 619-660-0614
12122 Cuyamaca College Dr. W
El Cajon, CA 92019-4317

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATES:

CLASSIC GARDENS
P. O. Box 2711 858-459-0316
La Jolla, CA 92038-2711

MASTER LANDSCAPE SERVICES, INC.
3089C Clairemont Drive #296 619-296-9687
San Diego, CA 92117-6802

SAN DIEGO COUNTY FAIR, PAUL ECKE JR. FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW
2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd.
Del Mar, CA 92014-2216
Email: *flowershow@sdfair.com*

SAN DIEGO COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
Vickie V. Driver 858-522-6760
4677 Overland Ave.
San Diego, CA 92123-1233
Email: *vdriver@sdcwa.org*

JIM STELLUTI CONSULTING LANDSCAPE ARTIST
1928 Madison Ave. 619-298-7641
San Diego, CA 92116-2722

GARDEN CLUBS:

ALPINE GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Carlette Anderson 619-445-5716
2451 Night Star Ct., Alpine, CA 91901-1449
1st Fri -10:00 am, Homes of Members

BERNARDO GARDENERS
Pres: Adele Kelly 858-673-8728
PO Box 27179, San Diego, CA 92198-1179
3rd Thu - 1:30 pm, Rancho Bernardo Library

BONITA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Lynne Batchelor 858-451-6764
16048 Caminito Aire Puro
San Diego, CA 92128-3557
2nd Wed - 9:30 a.m., Bonita Public Library

BRIDGE AND BAY GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Pat Cooley 437-8227
950 Olive Ave., Coronado, CA 92118-2710
4th Mon - 9:30 a.m., Winn Room, Coronado Public Library

CARLSBAD GARDEN CLUB
President: Ellen McGrath-Thorpe
760-494-7774 (Mary Hassing, Publicity)
www.carlsbadgardenclub.com

CHULA VISTA GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Betsy Cory 619-656-8669
P.O. Box 57, Chula Vista, CA 91912-1016
3rd Thu -11:45 a.m., Norman Park Senior Center

CORONADO FLORAL ASSOCIATION
Pres: Nancy Griffith 619-435-8079
P.O. Box 180188, Coronado, CA 92118-0188

CROWN GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Jeanne Bowers
P.O. Box 180476, Coronado, CA 92178-0476
4th Thu - 9:30 a.m., Coronado Library

DOS VALLES GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Evelyn Kent 760-749-5078
13224 Blueberry Hill La.
Valley Center, CA 92082-0123
2nd Tue - 12:30 p.m., Valley Center Com. Hall

FALLBROOK GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Judy Farnan 760-451-0792
P. O. Box 1702, Fallbrook, CA 92088-1702
3rd Wed -7:00 p.m., FPUD Bldg. on Mission Rd.
Last Thu - 9:30 a.m., Fallbrook Presbyterian Church on Stage Coach

FLEURS DE LEAGUE GARDEN CLUB
Chair: Mrs. Louisa Pillsbury 858-551-4556
16049 Vista de Golf
San Diego, CA 92091-4340
2nd Mon - 10:30 a.m., Homes of Members

LA JOLLA GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Joan Blankenship 858-488-5618
5171 Crystal Dr. La Jolla, CA 92037-7951
3rd Tue - 1:30 p.m., L.J.Lutheran Church

LAKE HODGES NATIVE PLANT CLUB
Pres: Vernon Bluhm 760-745-1219
710 W. 13th Ave. G118
Escondido, CA 92025
Email: *vbluhm@cox.net*
4th Mon. 2:00 p.m. Rancho Bernardo Library, 2nd floor

LAS JARDINERAS
Pres: Julie Warren 619-298-7043
3919 Portola Place
San Diego, CA 92103-2705
3rd Mon - 10:30 a.m., Homes of Members

MIRACOSTA HORT. CLUB OF OCEANSIDE
Co-Presidents: Felicia Moscinski 760-726-4047
809 Olive Ave., #40, Vista, CA 92083-3373
Don Nelson 760-630-3580
952 Park Hill Drive
Escondido, CA 92025-4853
Email: *donnelson12sbcglobal.net*
3rd Sat - 12:45 p.m., MiraCosta Community College, Student Center Bldg. (upstairs)
Meetings Sep through Jun ONLY

MISSION HILLS GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Meredith French 619-260-1588
San Diego, CA 92103-5502
4th Wed - 6:30 p.m., Mission Hills United Church of Christ at 4070 Jackdaw St.

POINT LOMA GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Julie Hasl
824 Moana Dr., San Diego, CA 92106
619-564-7036
2nd Wed - 10:00 a.m., Portuguese Hall
2818 Avenida de Portugal

POWAY VALLEY GARDEN CLUB
Co.Presidents
Rosemary Anderson 858-672-0459
14908 Satanas St.San Diego, CA 92129-1529
Lucille Rosicky 858-672-6225
14809 Priscilla St. San Diego, CA 92129-1524
2nd Wed - 9:00 a.m., Lake Poway Pavilion

RAMONA GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Teri Schmidt 760-789-8774
P.O. Box 1412, Ramona, CA 92065
2nd Wed - 12:00 noon Ramona Women's Club

RANCHO SAN DIEGO GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Carol Wells 619-749-8325
1818 Sonetts Dr., El Cajon, CA 92019
3rd Tuesday each month at 9:30 a.m.

RANCHO SANTA FE GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Hal Sexton 858-756-1554
P. O. Box 483
Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067-0483

SAN CARLOS GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Marj Myers 619-448-3613
9241 Galston Dr., Santee, CA 92071-1510
4th Tue - 9:30 a.m., Homes of Members

SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
Pres: Susi Torre-Bueno 760-295-7089
P. O. Box 231869, Encinitas, CA 92023-1869
2nd Mon - 6:30 pm, except June
Surfside Race Place
Del Mar Fairgrounds, Jimmy Durante Blvd.

SAN DIEGUITO GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Geri Thirloway 858-3284
1105 Santa Madera Ct.
Solana Beach, CA 92078-1620
4th Wed - 9:30 a.m., Quail Bot. Gardens

VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB OF LA JOLLA
Pres: Ann Craig 858-454-4117
1802 Amalfi St., La Jolla, CA 92037-3803
4th Thu., 10:00 a.m.,
Torrey Pines Christian Church

VISTA GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Barbara Weiler 760-630-0383
2920 Harris Dr., Vista, CA 92084-1418
1st Fri - 12:00 noon, Vista Senior Center

IKEBANA SCHOOLS:

ICHIYO SCHOOL OF IKEBANA SAN DIEGO CHAPTER
Pres: Haruko Crawford 619-660-2046
10411 San Carlos Dr.
Spring Valley, CA 91978-1034

IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER 119
Pres: Hiroko Fukuhara
c/o S.D. Botanical Garden Foundation
2125 Park Blvd., San Diego, CA 92101-4792
858-673-3635
Email: *hiropan8@san.rr.com*
4th Wed - 10:00 a.m., Casa del Prado

IKENOBO CHAPTER OF SAN DIEGO
Pres: Mrs. Charles Oehler 858-278-5689
2822 Walker Dr., San Diego, CA 92123-3056

OHARA SCHOOL OF IKEBANA LA JOLLA CHAPTER
P. O. Box 500765 858-672-7850
San Diego, CA 92150-0765
2nd Tues - 10:00 a.m., La Jolla Library

OHARA SCHOOL OF IKEBANA SAN DIEGO CHAPTER
Pres: Pres: Jackie Zhang
6435 Muirlands Dr., La Jolla, CA 92037-6310
858-454-4793

SOGETSU SCHOOL OF IKEBANA SAN DIEGO BRANCH
Director: Hiroko Szechinski 858-571-6137
10830 Montego Dr., San Diego, CA 92124-1421

SOGETSU SCHOOL OF IKEBANA
Master Instructor: Sumiko Lahey 619-429-6198
2829 Flax Dr., San Diego, CA 92154-2160

PLANT SOCIETIES:

AFRICAN VIOLET

CARLSBAD AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY
Pres: Patty Regan 760-295-0484
2000 S. Melrose Dr. #119, Vista, CA 92081
4th Mon - 10:30 a.m. - Vista Library,
700 Eucalyptus Ave.

BEGONIA

ALFRED D. ROBINSON BRANCH AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY
Pres: Doris Smith 619-222-1294
4505 Long Branch Ave.
San Diego, CA 92107-2333
2nd Tue - 10:30 a.m., Homes of Members

MABEL CORWIN BRANCH AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY
Pres: Denise Knobloch 619-409-4997
465 4th Avenue #3, Chula Vista, CA 91910
2nd Sun - 1:30 p.m., except May & Aug.
Quail Gardens

MARGARET LEE BRANCH AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY
Pres: Michael Ludwig 619-262-7535
6040 Upland St., San Diego CA 92114-1933
Last Sat - 10:30 a.m., Homes of Members

BONSAI

HON NON BO ASSOCIATION
Pres: Brenda Storey 858-689-0957
9976 Dauntless St., San Diego, CA 92126-5514
1st Sun. every other month (begin Feb.)
10:30 a.m., Casa del Prado

SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB, INC.
Information: 619-699-8776
P. O. Box 40037, San Diego CA 92164-0037
2nd Sun. - 10:30 a.m., Casa del Prado, Rm. 101
Beginning & intermediate classes at 9:00 am before meeting July/August 2007 | 37

BROMELIAD

BROMELIAD STUDY GROUP OF BALBOA PARK
Pres: Joann Dossett 619-299-4115
2871 Brant St., San Diego, CA 92103-6119
Email: *jdoss12345@aol.com*
2nd Tue. - 7:00 p.m., Casa del Prado

SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY
Pres: Nancy Groves 858-453-6486
(weekends only)
www.bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html
P. O. Box 83996, San Diego, CA 92138-3966
2nd Sat., 10:00 a.m., Room 104,
Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

CACTUS & SUCCULENT

PALOMAR CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY
P. O. Box 840, Escondido, CA 92033
4th Sat - 12:15 p.m., Joslyn Sr. Ctr., Escondido

SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY
Pres: Mark Fryer 619-795-1020
P. O. Box 33181, San Diego, CA 92163-3181
2nd Sat - 1:00 p.m., Casa del Prado

CAMELLIA

SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY
Pres: E. C. (Gene) Snooks 858-454-6659
6114 La Jolla Blvd., La Jolla, CA 92037-6702
3rd Wed. - 7:00 p.m., Casa del Prado
Meetings Nov. through Apr. ONLY

DAHLIA

SAN DIEGO COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY
Pres: David J. Tooley 858-672-2593
11375 Nawa Way, San Diego, CA 92129-1116
Email: *djsj21643@aol.com*
4th Tue. - 7:30 p.m., Casa del Prado

DAYLILY (HEMEROCALLIS)

SOUTHWEST HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY
Contact: Betsy Hamblin 858-483-5584
851 Opal St., San Diego, CA 92109-1780
1st Sat. - 10:00 a.m., Sep. through May
Quail Gardens

EPIPHYLLUM

SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY
Pres: Mildred V. Mikas 858-485-5414
P. O. Box 126127, San Diego, CA 92112-6127
Website: *www.epiphyllum.com*
2nd Wed. - 7:30 p.m., Casa del Prado

FERN

SAN DIEGO FERN SOCIETY
Pres: Sherry Worthen 858-278-2017
3141 Cabrillo Mesa Dr.
San Diego, CA 92123-2945
3rd Thu. - 7:30 p.m., Casa del Prado

FRUIT

CALIFORNIA RARE FRUIT GROWERS
Chair: David Silverstein
4722 Coronado Ave., San Diego, CA 92107-3543
4th Thu. - 7:00 p.m., Casa del Prado
Nov. & Dec. ONLY, 3rd Thu.

GERANIUM

SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY
Pres: Brenda Archer 619-447-8243
6404 Zena Dr., San Diego, CA 92115-7026
2nd Tue. - 7:00 p.m., Casa del Prado

HERB

THE SAN DIEGO HERB CLUB
Copresidents: Judy Dunning and Cindi Lohry
619-579-0222
Meetings on the 1st Wed. of every month at
7:00 p.m., Balboa Park
Casa del Prado, Room 101

IRIS

SAN DIEGO/IMPERIAL COUNTIES IRIS SOCIETY
Pres: Leon Vogel 951-677-5587
26440 St. Ives Ct., Murrieta, CA 92563-6087
2nd Sun. - 1:00 p.m.
Call for newsletter and location

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY IRIS SOCIETY
Pres: Eileen Fiumara 818-986-4188
4512 Sunnyslope Ave.
Sherman Oaks, CA 91423-3119
1st Thu. - 7:30 p.m. -
Canoga Park Women's Club
7401 Jordan, Canoga Park

NATIVE PLANTS

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SAN DIEGO CHAPTER
Carolyn Martus 760-434-5033
P. O. Box 121390 *www.cnpssd.org*
San Diego, CA 92112-1390
3rd Tue - 7:00 p.m., Casa del Prado

LAKE HODGES NATIVE PLANT CLUB
Pres: Yolanda Fleet 760-745-1219
3045 Felicita Rd., Escondido, CA 92029-6725
4th Mon. - 2:00 p.m. - Rancho Bernardo
Library, 2nd floor

ORCHID

SAN DIEGO COUNTY CYMBIDIUM SOCIETY
A BRANCH OF THE CYMBIDIUM
SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.
Pres: Loren Ellsworth 858-748-8355
14730 Dash Way, Poway, CA 92064-2914
3rd Wed. - 7:00 p.m., Carlsbad Women's Club

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY
Pres: David Brown
4029 Georgia Street, San Diego, CA 92103
619-294-5925
Email: *posiedon_djb@juno.com*
1st Tue. - 7:30 p.m., Casa del Prado

ORGANIC

BONITA ORGANIC GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Jane Campbell 619-741-8448
Email: *kreepyhollow@gmail.com*
4th Tuesday of the month- 6:30 p.m. - Meeting
7:00, Bonita/Sunnyside Library Community
Room, 4375 Bonita Road, Bonita

PLUMERIA

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PLUMERIA SOCIETY
Pres: Joy Herzog 619-443-4795
P. O. Box 20553, El Cajon, CA 92021-0940
4TH Sun. - 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.,
Feb. through Oct., Casa del Prado, Room 102
Email: *c.herzog@att.net*

ROSE

EAST COUNTY ROSE SOCIETY
Pres: Kristi Sutherlin 619-447-4131
2007 Muira Lane El Cajon, CA 92109
Email: *ksuthe4187@aol.com*
www.eastcountyrosesociety.com
1st Sun - 2:00 p.m., Except July & Aug.
Gardens of Members

SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY
Pres: Ruth Tiffany 619-462-5753
6705 Maury Dr., San Diego, CA 92119-2020
www.sdrosesociety.org
3rd Mon. - 7:30 p.m., Casa del Prado
EXCEPT Jan. & Feb. - 4th Mon.
No meetings July & Aug.

TREES

PEOPLE FOR TREES
Contact: Pat Stevenson 619-222-TREE
P. O. Box 120505 FAX 619-223-TREE
San Diego, CA 92112-0505
Email: *adoglover1@juno.com*
4th Tue. - 6:30 p.m., 743 Imperial Ave.

WATER GARDEN

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER GARDEN SOCIETY
Pres: Ed Simpson 760-436-3704
1302 Avocado Rd., Oceanside, CA 92054-5702
3rd Sun - Apr. through Oct.
Website: *groups.yahoo.com/group/sdwatergarden*
Email: *dc@pondplants.com*

Send changes to Affiliates Editor, *California Garden*,
1650 El Prado #105, San Diego, CA 92101-1684. Call 619-232-5762
Email: *membership@sdfloral.org* **November/December issue: September 10, 2008.**
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In Season

Here are some of the items that you may find being sold from the stalls at your local Farmers' Market in September and October. (For more information on San Diego County Certified Farmers' Markets, visit ***www.sdfarmbureau.org.***)

September: Apples, avocados, beans, carrots, cucumbers, figs, grapefruit, grapes, melons, onions, peaches, peppers, plums, potatoes, raspberries, squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, Valencia oranges, various cut flowers

October: Apples, Asian pears, avocados, beans, carrots, cucumbers, figs, grapefruit, grapes, melons, onions, peaches, pears, peppers, potatoes, sweet corn, sweet potatoes, tomatoes, Valencia oranges, various cut flowers

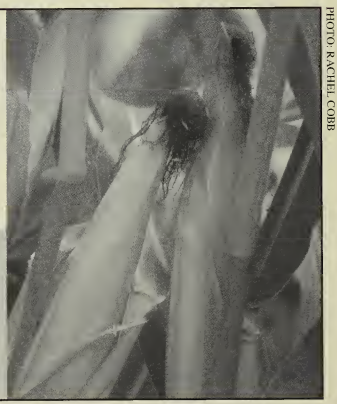

PHOTO: RACHEL COBB

Contact Us!

Do you have an event, class or meeting that you'd like to let *California Garden* readers know about? If so, please email *calendar@sdfloral.org* with your group's name, the meeting date and time, meeting place, any applicable fees, event program and contact information. You may also submit the above information via regular mail, sent to Calendar Editor, San Diego Floral Association, 1650 El Prado Room 105, San Diego, CA 92101. Space is limited, so please get in touch today to ensure inclusion! The deadline for the upcoming Nov/Dec 2008 issue is September 10, 2008; the deadline for the Jan/Feb 2009 issue is November 10, 2008.

From The Archives

Interest in aloes and agaves has a long tradition in San Diego. Early in the year of 1935 the City of San Diego was bustling to complete the expansion of development of Balboa Park in preparation for the May opening of the San Diego Exposition. This included display buildings south of the Organ Pavilion and beautiful plaza gardens (now predominantly covered with asphalt). Special gardens which emphasized our moderate climate were developed by the Floral Association specifically to display agaves and aloes. This garden was inspired in 1931 by Kate O. Sessions and took several years to develop, including an addition and up to the last minute accessions.

November, 1932

The Agave and Aloe Garden in Balboa Park

The idea and plan for this garden to be established by the San Diego Floral Association was made by Miss K. O. Sessions late in 1931, and a favorable location in Balboa Park was, a few months later, granted to the association by the park commissioners. The grading of the land and the building of a road on two sides of the tract required many months which delayed the planting, but the plants that were collected during the past three months have now all been planted. The mesembryanthemums that will serve as a ground cover among the agaves and upon the steep sloping sides of the garden will be planted during the coming rainy season.

All the different varieties of Agaves and Aloes that could be obtained in San Diego and many duplicates were planted then donations from interested friends of the cause in other parts of Southern California were collected. All these donations were of varieties entirely different from any of the San Diego plants and of each other, so the number of varieties were increased, and their value decidedly greater. The Huntington Botanic Garden of San Marino, the E. O. Orpet Nursery at Santa Barbara, and B. L. Sloane, president of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America in Pasadena gave very generously of rare varieties. The generous cash donations during the past year have amounted to $115.62, which at this date has all been expended for labor and only a small debt is on hand.

It is anticipated that donations of other varieties will steadily, though slowly, increase the collection.

This garden in Balboa Park should in the next few years become internationally known for this location is the very best obtainable in the United States where these plants will flourish in the open throughout the year, and San Diego is the best city for foreign visitors because of its excellent and equitable climate. The different aloes will bloom from December until May and June. The garden will be under the care of an interested and reliable park employee, and will require about two years of growth to prove its interest, beauty and value for Balboa Park and citizens. – *Mary A. Greer*

February-March, 1935

The Aloe and Agave Garden Balboa Park, San Diego

When Miss Sessions first talked of having an annex to this garden there was nothing elaborate about her plans, but with the help of SERA a way opened whereby the garden was brought to a greater development than at first was anticipated.

Numerous loads of dirt were used, also many of crushed hard-pan for walks, and hard-pan rocks for edging of the beds. Water pipes have been installed, drains completed and rustic benches are being made. Hundreds of plants and thousands of mesembryanthemum cuttings were planted. So the work has progressed and now that the aloe and agave garden is practically completed the dream of the San Diego Floral Association will soon be a beautiful realization.

Much praise should be given to Miss K. O. Sessions for her generosity in time and plants. Without her enthusiastic spirit this garden would never have been a reality. There are others who deserve thanks and credit for making this garden a success. Mr. John G. Morley, superintendent of parks; Frank Taylor, general foreman, park department; Fred Bode, foreman Exposition planting, also his assistant, Richard James; Olaf Cole and James Yotsey, foreman of the SERA equipment. The donators of plants and rocks, and all the men even to the humblest workman who took joy in the work should come in for their full share. It certainly has been a pleasure for me to work on this project, having had the co-operation of all those previously mentioned.

– *Chauncy Irgens Jerabek*

Firestone Fountain in the Pan-American Plaza

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Danielle in the Carlsbad Flower Fields photo - Linda Olsen
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